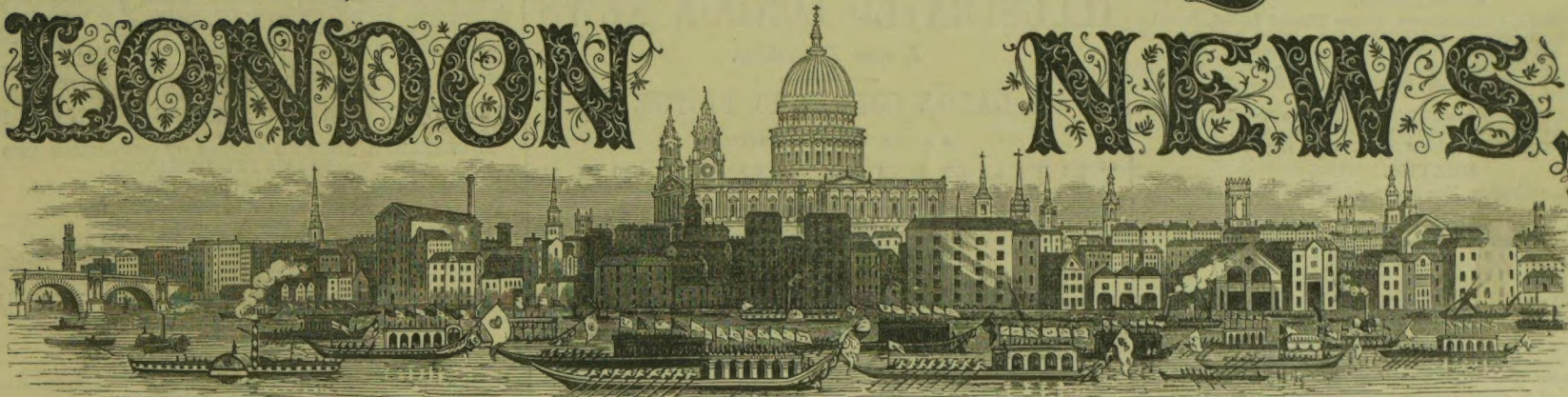


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 2062.—VOL. LXXIII.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1878.

WITH } SIXPENCE.
TWO SUPPLEMENTS } By Post, 6¹/₂d.



PRINCESS ALICE (GRAND DUCHESS OF HESSE).
BORN APRIL 25, 1843. DIED DEC. 14, 1878.

PRINCESS MARIA VICTORIA FEODORE LEOPOLDINE.
BORN MAY 24, 1874. DIED NOV. 16, 1878.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXANDER BASSANO, OLD BOND-STREET.

BIRTHS.

On the 14th inst., at Roslin House, Finborough-road, South Kensington, the wife of Algernon Graves, of a son.

On the 13th inst., at Barton Seagrave Rectory, Kettering, the Hon. Mrs. John Marsham, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

At St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, B.N.A., on the 27th ult., by the Rev. George W. Hodgson, Priest Incumbent of St. Peter's Church, assisted by the Rev. David Fitzgerald, Rector of St. Paul's, Phillip W. G. Canning, Esq., M.D., of Port Hope, Ontario, Canada (formerly of Jersey, Channel Islands), to Sara, daughter of the Hon. Chief Justice Palmer, of Prince Edward Island.

On Oct. 30, at St. Paul's, Oakland (California), by the Rev. J. L. Parks, Edward Irwin, second son of the late Hugh H. Hannay, Esq., of Belfast, Ireland, to Fannie A., eldest daughter of N. W. Wells, Esq., of Oakland.

DEATHS.

On the 17th inst., at Necton, Miss Mason, of Necton Hall, Norfolk, in her 88th year.

On the 14th inst., suddenly, of apoplexy, William Allen Turner, Esq., of No. 4, Half Moon-street, Piccadilly, aged 69.

On the 2nd inst., at Helme Lodge, near Kendal, Westmorland, William Dillworth Cresson, in his 80th year.

On the 18th inst., at her residence, Lawn House, Edgbaston, after a lingering illness, Caroline, eldest daughter of the late Robert Hodgson, of Birmingham, aged 74.

On the 12th inst., at Dundonnell House, Ross-shire, Scotland, aged 72 years, Kenneth Mackenzie, M.D., of Dundonnell, Shoolhaven, New South Wales, and Ardross and Dundonnell, Ross-shire, Scotland.

On the 13th inst., at 37, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, after a lingering illness, Charles Ady Hulbert, of Mincing-lane, and Watford, Herts, aged 56 years. Friends will please accept this intimation.

On the 7th ult., at Bodie, California, deeply regretted by numerous friends and acquaintances, William George Cox, Esq., late of Victoria, B.C., where for many years he filled the arduous offices of Gold Commissioner and Judge with so much ability and courtesy; he was also a member of the Senate, and fourth son of the late Charles Cox, Esq., of Lime Hill House, in the county of Dublin.

•• The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 28.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22.

Fourth Sunday in Advent.
Morning Lessons: Isaiah xxx. 1-27, Rev. viii. Evening Lessons: Isaiah xxxii. or xxxiii. 2-23, Rev. x.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Rev. H. W. Watkins; 3.15 p.m., Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., Rev. H. Salway.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m. Dean Stanley; 3 p.m., Rev. Canon Farrar.
St. James's, 10 a.m., Rev. H. A. Cotton; noon, Rev. W. H. Bliss.
Whitehall, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., Rev. T. L. Papillon.
St. Margaret's, Westminster, evening, Rev. Canon Farrar.

MONDAY, DEC. 23.

London Institution, 5 p.m. (Mr. W. R. S. Ralston, Story-telling).

TUESDAY, DEC. 24.

George I., King of Greece, born, 1845.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25, CHRISTMAS DAY.

Morning Lessons: Isaiah ix. 1-8; Luke ii. 1-15; Evening Lessons: Isaiah vii. 10-17; Titus iii. 4-9.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., Very Rev. the Dean, Dr. Church; 3.15 p.m. (No sermon). No evening service.
Whitehall, 11 a.m., Rev. W. Hulton.

THURSDAY, DEC. 26.

St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr. Royal Albert Hall Choral Society (Handel's "Messiah").

FRIDAY, DEC. 27.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist. Quekett Microscopical Club, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 28.

Holy Innocents' Day. Childermas. Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, 3. (Prof. Dewar on a Soap Bubble). University College Hospital, amateur dramatic performance for it, St. George's Hall, 7 p.m.

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.
Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 10' 47" W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

| DAY. | DAILY MEANS OF | | | | | THERMOM. | | WIND. | | Rain in 24 hours, next morning. |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | Barometer Corrected. | Temperature of the Air. | Dew Point. | Relative Humidity. | Amount of Cloud. | Maximum, read at 10 P.M. | Minimum, read at 10 P.M. | General Direction. | Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning. | |
| December | Inches. | ° | ° | ° | 0-10 | ° | ° | | Miles. | In. |
| 11 | 29.827 | 30.6 | 28.2 | 92 | 9 | 33.6 | 26.9 | N. NW. | 144 | 0.010 |
| 12 | 29.728 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 100 | 10 | 30.6 | 26.8 | N. NW. WSW. E. | 113 | 0.000 |
| 13 | 29.657 | 25.8 | 25.5 | 98 | 11 | 29.9 | 21.4 | E. ESE. | 134 | 0.000 |
| 14 | 29.578 | 26.7 | 20.0 | 78 | 6 | 30.4 | 21.9 | ESE. NNE. WNW. | 173 | 0.000 |
| 15 | 29.648 | 30.6 | 30.4 | 99 | 8 | 34.6 | 22.7 | W. SW. WSW. | 161 | 0.010 |
| 16 | 29.488 | 31.6 | 31.2 | 98 | 10 | 33.4 | 28.9 | SW. N. | 82 | 0.025 |
| 17 | 29.456 | 27.8 | 27.0 | 97 | 6 | 31.9 | 24.0 | WNW. W. SW. | 114 | 0.010 |

* Snow. † Sleet.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:-

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Barometer (in inches) corrected | 29.827 | 29.727 | 29.630 | 29.588 | 29.685 | 29.454 | 29.449 |
| Temperature of Air | 30.6 | 27.5 | 26.8 | 26.9 | 29.9 | 32.1 | 27.0 |
| Temperature of Evaporation | 29.8 | 27.7 | 26.1 | 24.9 | 28.7 | 31.7 | 29.2 |
| Direction of Wind | NW. | WSW. | E. | NNE. | SW. | SW. | WNW. |

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 28.

| Sunday. | Monday. | Tuesday. | Wednesday. | Thursday. | Friday. | Saturday. |
|---------|---------|----------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| h m | h m | h m | h m | h m | h m | h m |
| 10 20 | 0 50 | 1 17 | 1 45 | 2 10 | 2 35 | 3 00 |

ELIJAH WALTON EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS (Isle of Wight, Alpine, and Eastern), ON VIEW and for SALE, at very moderate prices, at BURLINGTON GALLERY, 191, Piccadilly, Ten till Dusk. Admission (with Catalogue), 1s.

DORÉ'S GREAT WORK, "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM," "CHRIST ENTERING THE TEMPLE," and "THE BRAZEN SERPENT," each 33 ft. by 22 ft.; with "Dream of Pilate's Wife," "Soldiers of the Cross," &c., at the DORE GALLERY, 35, New Bond-st., W. Daily, 10 to 6. 1s.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120, Pall-mall.—The TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PICTURES by British and Foreign Artists, including forty Sketches and Studies from Nature, by E. W. Leader, is NOW OPEN. Admission, 1s.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120, Pall-mall.—DE NEUVILLE'S Grand Work, LE BOURGET, Oct. 30, 1870, at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Exhibition of Pictures by British and Foreign Artists.—See "Times," Nov. 5.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—The Thirteenth WINTER EXHIBITION is now OPEN from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. Gallery, 63, Pall-mall. H. F. PHILLIPS, Secretary.

CHRISTMAS LECTURES.—ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, ALBEMARLE-STREET, PICCADILLY, W.—Professors DEWAR, M.A., F.R.S., will deliver a course of Six Lectures (adapted to a Juvenile Audience) on A SOAP BUBBLE, COMMENCING on SATURDAY NEXT, DEC. 28, at Three o'clock; to be continued on Dec. 31, 1878, and Jan. 2, 4, 7, 9, 1879. Subscription to this course, One Guinea (Children under Sixteen, Half a Guinea); to all the Courses in the Season, Two Guineas. Tickets may now be obtained at the Institution.

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER

OF THE

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Is now Publishing.

A LARGE COLOURED PICTURE

IS GIVEN WITH IT, ENTITLED

"PUSS IN BOOTS,"

(PRINTED BY LEIGHTON BROTHERS).

From a Picture Painted Specially for this Christmas Number

By JOHN E. MILLAIS, R.A.

The ILLUSTRATIONS are by G. D. Leslie, R.A., H. S. Marks, A.R.A., G. A. Storey, A.R.A., and several other Artists of note; and there is a Page of Pictorial Charades.

The Number contains

A TALE BY MRS. J. H. RIDDELL,

Author of "George Geith," &c., entitled

"MICHAEL GARGRAVE'S HARVEST;"

AND

SKETCHES and VERSES by F. C. BURNAND and others.

The whole is inclosed in a Coloured Wrapper, and published apart from the ordinary issue.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Through the post in the United Kingdom, 3d. extra.

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Now publishing,

FATHER CHRISTMAS:

OUR LITTLE ONES' BUDGET,

BEING A CHRISTMAS NUMBER FOR YOUNG FOLK.

EDITED BY N. D'ANVERS.

A COLOURED PICTURE,

"THE CHRISTMAS TREE,"

is presented with it.

The Number is adorned by numerous Illustrations, and contains Tales, Sketches, Riddles, and Puzzles; the Legend of Robin Hood, adapted by the Editor into a Three-Act Play for Children; A New-Year's Song set to Music; and much Pleasant Reading for the Young by Miss Thackeray and other Writers of note.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

FATHER CHRISTMAS FOR 1877.

In consequence of the great demand for copies of last year's FATHER CHRISTMAS, it has been reprinted, and a few copies are now on sale.

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NOW PUBLISHING,

PRICE ONE SHILLING (INLAND POSTAGE, 2½d.).

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK

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WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES;

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OLYMPIC THEATRE.—THE TWO ORPHANS. EVERY EVENING at 7.30. MORNING PERFORMANCE OF A REPUBLICAN MARRIAGE, SATURDAY NEXT, at Two o'clock. Box-office open daily from Eleven to Five. No booking fees.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate. Grand Pantomime, ROBIN HOOD and the MERRIE MEN OF SHERWOOD. EVERY EVENING at Seven. Morning Performance, Boxing Day, Dec. 26; Friday, Dec. 27; Saturday, Dec. 28; and every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at One o'clock; to which Children under Ten, half price.

ROYAL PARK THEATRE, Camden Town. Under entirely New Management. Grand Pantomime, ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES. EVERY EVENING at Seven. Morning Performance, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, and every Saturday at 1.30. Children half price.

HAMILTON'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE, Holborn. INCREASED ATTRACTIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS and PANORAMA OF PASSING EVENTS, with superb Scenes of Cyprus and the Khyber Pass. Patriotic and Character Songs, Champion Skaters, &c. The most varied and refined Entertainment in London. EVERY EVENING, at Eight. This Saturday, Monday, and Daily during the Holidays, at Three and Eight. Admission, 6d. to 3s. Bonnets allowed in Stalls and Boxes. No fee for booking seats. Carriages at 10.30.

MYERS' GREAT HIPPODROME and CIRCUS, the most Gigantic Establishment in the World, from Paris and Crystal Palace, Sydenham. WILL OPEN at the AGRICULTURAL HALL on BOXING DAY, DEC. 26. See future Advertisements.

THE CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES. TRAFALGAR, EVERY EVENING, at 9.45. "Punch" says:—"Must be as great a success for the Canterbury as the battle itself was for England." Miss Nelly Power, Arthur Lloyd, Fred Wilson, and Variety Entertainment, at Eight.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Reopen Boxing Day at Three and Eight. A TREMENDOUS MYSTERY, and first time of A TRIP TO CAIRO, by Mr. Corney Grain. Concluding with ENCHANTMENT, a Musical Fairy Tale. Twice on Thursday and Friday at Three and Eight; Saturday, at Three. Admission, 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s. and 6s.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place.

CRYSTAL PALACE PICTURE GALLERY.—Open all the year round for the SALE of BRITISH and FOREIGN PICTURES. Important New Works have just been added. The Sales last year amounted to £3000. For particulars apply to Mr. C. W. WASS, Superintendent of the Gallery.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT-GARDEN.—Under the Management of Messrs. A. and S. Gatti.—ON BOXING NIGHT (THURSDAY NEXT, DEC. 26) will be produced the New Grand Christmas Pantomime, entitled JACK AND THE BEANSTALK, written expressly for this Theatre by Frank W. Green. New and magnificent Scenery, by Julian Hicks, Son, and assistants. First Morning Performance, Saturday, Dec. 28; second, Monday, Dec. 30; and every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday until further notice, commencing each day at Two. Children under Twelve half price to all parts of the house at Morning Performances, on payment at the doors only. Prices of admission:—Private Boxes, £4 4s. to 10s. 6d.; Stalls, 7s.; Dress Circle, 6s.; Upper Boxes, 4s.; Amphitheatre Stalls (reserved), 3s.; Unreserved, 2s.; Pit, 2s.; and Gallery, 1s. The only authorised Box-office, open from Ten to Five, under the portico of the Theatre, under the direction of Mr. E. Hall.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S HOLIDAY FESTIVAL, 1878-9.

The world-famed

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS

will inaugurate their

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES OF CHRISTMAS AND NEW

YEAR'S PERFORMANCES

AT THE ST. JAMES'S GREAT HALL

On BOXING DAY, THURSDAY, DEC. 26,

on which day there will be

A SPECIAL DAY PERFORMANCE, AT TWO O'CLOCK,

and another in the EVENING, at SEVEN.

AFTER BOXING DAY,

performances will be given

EVERY AFTERNOON, at THREE; EVERY NIGHT, at EIGHT,

UNTIL JAN. 13,

after which date they will be resumed in their regular order.

ST. JAMES'S GREAT HALL

Has just been magnificently Re-Decorated and furnished with

New and Brilliant Gas Illumination, rendering it beyond question the most

Superb Salle de Concert in Europe.

AN ENTIRELY NEW AND BEAUTIFUL PROSCENIUM AND SCENERY

has been painted by that eminent Artist Richard Douglass.

The auditorium will therefore present a coup-d'œil of surpassing beauty.

THE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME,

which has been in active rehearsal for a considerable time,

will be found fully worthy of the

Great Reputation of this World-Famed Company.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS.

Prices of admission, 5s., 3s., 2s., and 1s. No Fees. No Charge for Programmes.

Omnibuses run from every Railway Station in London

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THE MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S FESTIVAL

will be inaugurated

AT THE ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL,

ON BOXING DAY, THURSDAY, DEC. 26,

on which occasion there will be a special

DAY PERFORMANCE at TWO, and an EVENING PERFORMANCE at SEVEN.

FIVE THOUSAND PLACES.

THROUGHOUT THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW-YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

THE MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS

will perform

EVERY AFTERNOON at THREE, and EVERY NIGHT

at EIGHT,

but on Boxing Day both performances will commence One Hour Earlier—viz., at

TWO O'CLOCK and at SEVEN

Five Thousand Seats in the most Beautiful Hall in Europe.

THE GROSVENOR GALLERY.

WINTER EXHIBITION.

THE GROSVENOR GALLERY will OPEN on MONDAY,

DEC. 30, with an EXHIBITION of DRAWINGS by the OLD MASTERS, and

WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS by Artists of the British School. Admission, One

Shilling. SEASON TICKETS, FIVE SHILLINGS.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisements for insertion in the ILLUSTRATED

LONDON NEWS of Dec. 28 (Christmas week) should be

sent not later than Monday next, Dec. 23.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1878.

The Country is in mourning—The Country mourns. How

great a difference there may be between the two states—

the outward and the inward—need not be pointed out.

There is no difference in the present instance. The

"trappings of woe" correspond but too closely with the

sorrow of the heart. Princess Alice of Great Britain and

Ireland, the Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt, the

second daughter of Queen Victoria, has been removed

from the present life by the terrible malady which had,

a few days before, carried off her youngest daughter and

which had put in sore peril the lives of her husband and

the rest of her children. The lamentable event occurred

on the anniversary of her father's death, seventeen years

ago. It brings with it touching reminiscences which will

now be closely associated with the memory of her life.

How she nursed the Prince Consort in his mortal illness,

how the tenderness and self-sacrificing devotion of her

love smoothed his passage from this world to the

next, how she upheld her Royal Mother under the fresh

burden of her widowhood, how ten years afterwards she

nursed her brother the Prince of Wales, and was happily

rewarded by the restoration of his health, we all know.

And now she has herself fallen a victim to the very

virtues which commended her to our hearts. There is a

pathos in the incident mentioned by Lord Beaconsfield in

the House of Lords on Tuesday last which is simply irre-

sistible. "The physicians," he said, "who permitted her

to watch over her suffering family enjoined her under no

circumstances whatever to be tempted into an embrace.

Her admirable self-restraint guarded her through the

crisis of this terrible complaint in safety. She remembered

and observed the injunctions of her physicians. But it be-

came her lot to break to her son, quite a youth, the death

of his youngest sister, to whom he was devotedly attached.

The boy was so overcome with misery that the agitated



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS ALICE, GRAND DUCHESS OF HESSE-DARMSTADT.

(DIED, DECEMBER 14, 1878.)

what we see on this side of the grave, distressful as it is to many, grievous to all, is yet spanned by a bow of promise. The life of Princess Alice is even now far from having worked out its beautiful results. It was a life of blessing to all who came within its sphere, and of potent influence for good to those who were outside of it. Her exalted position was but the accident which displayed it more vividly and more widely than would otherwise have been the case. Its genuine lustre was in itself. It would have been charming anywhere, in any rank, in association with any circumstances, but it was rendered more conspicuous in that it was lifted up on high. We need not speak in a depreciating tone of the external grandeur—albeit grandeur in simplicity—the centre of which she so exquisitely adorned. They who were nearest to her either by the ties of relationship or by the privilege of personal intercourse, speak admiringly of her intellectual culture, her solid judgment, her brilliant vivacity. We can believe them. But that which most attracts and fixes the regard of most men was the tender and ever outflowing sympathy which she had for all kinds of human suffering. An ornament to her Court, a bright and sparkling gem in her family, diffusing gladness wherever she vouchsafed her presence, she was always ready, in the alleviation of sorrow, to take the post demanding the greatest self-denial and to meet the troubles from which she might have been excused had she shrunk from them. "So good, so kind, so clever," says the Prince of Wales, in a letter written on the day of her death—words of simple testimony to her worth which find an echo in the bosom of every subject of the realm. She was a feminine exposition of the spirit of "Albert the Good," and her death brings back to us in full flush the grateful remembrances we have of his life.

The blow, as might have been expected, has been a heavy one for the Queen. The day on which it occurred necessarily reopened the deep wound made upon her domestic happiness, never perhaps to be completely healed, by the death of the Prince Consort. Her people rejoice in the assurance that her Majesty's usual health has not shown any indications of giving way under the stroke. They are thankful that she had an opportunity, as late ago as last autumn, of seeing and exchanging embraces with her beloved daughter. They are fully sensible that it is out of their power to offer her such consolation as will reach to the depth of her affliction. They are willing to bear her grief, if that were possible; but, that not being so, they are anxious to share it. They well know that they owe much to her, but they know not how much. They looked on with admiring and even affectionate sympathy whilst she was engaged in training her children for the high positions which they occupy. They cannot see her in domestic trouble without yearning to give her such solace as their unanimous participation in her grief may help to afford. The light which the life of Princess Alice casts forward, as a glorious example upon their several households, beams also in its reflex radiance upon the family life and maternal influences of their beloved Sovereign. They owe to her an untold sum of thankfulness, and they cannot allow her daughter to pass away from earth without becoming increasingly sensible of the debt of obligation under which the mother in her child has laid them. With more fervency than ever they will now repeat the refrain of the National Anthem, "God Save the Queen."

The lesson of the late Princess's life is as noble as it is obvious. Moral worth is a far more felicitous distinction than high position. It is well when both are combined, as in her case; but the first claims our reverential homage even when quite apart from the last. The women of society are not the only persons who may profit from what they have been called within the last week to witness. Love is the surest parent of love. To be lovely is the best forerunner of lovely action. Influence, honour, and unflinching satisfaction are to be acquired, not so much by the triumphs of ambition as by the quiet discharge of daily duties, and by the unostentatious but continuous outflow of a loving heart. In this respect to give is to receive, to bless is to be blessed, and, in the words of Holy Writ, to lose life is to find it.

The annual report of the Postmaster-General, with the usual mixture of instruction and amusement, has been issued.

Mr. E. J. Stone, her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, has been appointed by the Radcliffe Trustees Radcliffe Observer at Oxford, in succession to the Rev. R. Main.

The Queen has directed letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal granting the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom to the Right Hon. Sir Andrew Buchanan, G.C.B., of Dunburgh, in the county of Stirling.

The Home Secretary, acting on medical advice, has ordered the release of Dr. Baxter-Langley from prison four months before the termination of the term of eighteen months' imprisonment, to which he was sentenced in 1877.

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have awarded the medal for long service and good conduct to the following men:—Martin M'Mahon, commissioned boatman of her Majesty's Coastguard; J. G. Marshant, chief carpenter's mate; and William Eckersley, chief engine-room artificer, of her Majesty's ship *Thistle*.

A meeting of the Privy Council was held on the 12th inst. in the Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, when the Lord Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor were sworn Lords Justices for the government of Ireland during the absence of the Duke of Marlborough.—The Lord Lieutenant has appointed the Right Hon. Hugh Tarpey, Lord Mayor, as High Sheriff of the city of Dublin for the ensuing year.

THE COURT.

The Queen, with the members of the Royal family, received with feelings of the profoundest grief on Saturday last, at Windsor Castle, the terrible intelligence from Darmstadt of the fatal termination, at 7.30 a.m., of the illness of her beloved daughter the Grand Duchess of Hesse (Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland). Her Majesty, although overwhelmed with sorrow by this heavy blow, which occurred on the sad anniversary of the death of the lamented Prince Consort, has not suffered in health. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, and Prince Leopold were with the Queen. The Dean of Westminster also arrived at the castle. The usual service at the Mausoleum was postponed in consequence of the alarming telegram which reached her Majesty the previous day from Darmstadt; but the Queen and the Royal family walked down there in the morning.

Special prayers were read by the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster on Sunday in the private apartments of the castle (as in the years immediately following the death of the Prince Consort) before the Queen and the Royal family and some of the household. Divine service was performed in the private chapel of the castle, when the Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, Incumbent of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair, officiated. The Duchess of Teck came from London to visit her Majesty.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left the castle on Monday for London. The Dean of Westminster also left. The Duke of Edinburgh, of her Majesty's ironclad the *Black Prince*, who had arrived at Spithead the previous day from America, came from London, with the Duchess of Edinburgh, to visit the Queen, and remained to luncheon.

The Princess of Wales arrived on Tuesday on a visit to her Majesty.

A solemn service was performed by the Dean of Windsor in the private chapel of the castle on Wednesday, at half-past two, the hour of the funeral of the lamented Princess at Darmstadt, in the presence of the Queen, the Princess of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, Princess Christian, Princess Beatrice, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duchess of Teck.

The Court will be in mourning from the 18th inst. to Jan. 29. General mourning is ordered to be worn for three weeks from the 15th inst.

The Court will pass the Christmas at Osborne.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales visited the Empress Eugénie and Prince Louis Napoleon at Camden House, Chiselmhurst, on Thursday week. The Duchess of Edinburgh dined with the Prince and Princess at Marlborough House. The Prince and Princess received the Chinese Minister (Kuo-Ta-Jen) at Marlborough House the next day, and took leave of his Excellency. Prince and Princess Christian and the Duke of Cambridge lunched with their Royal Highnesses after their return from Windsor on Monday. The Prince and Princess visited the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at Clarence House. The Prince, with Prince Leopold and Prince Christian, left Marlborough House in the evening for Germany, to be present at the funeral of the Grand Duchess of Hesse.

THE DEATH OF PRINCESS ALICE.

The whole English nation, and, we believe, the German nation also, have since last Saturday joined with our Queen and the Royal family, and with the bereaved husband and children at Hesse-Darmstadt, in heartfelt mourning for the untimely death of this illustrious lady. Her Royal Highness was, to quote the touching words of her brother, the Prince of Wales, in the letter which Earl Granville read on Tuesday evening to the House of Lords, "so good, so kind, so clever!" As daughter, sister, wife, and mother, she had ever shown the characteristic virtues of womanhood; and she had laboured, both in England and in Germany, with a "thoughtful beneficence," to relieve the sufferings of the sick poor in hospitals, of wounded soldiers, and prisoners of war, at the same time cultivating every pursuit of refined intelligence and taste, and the graceful accomplishments befitting her exalted rank. The dates and other details of her personal history will be found set forth in the usual form of an Obituary Notice. Our leading article this week is naturally devoted to this topic, which has, more than all other contemporary affairs, occupied the public mind; while the votes of condolence in both Houses of Parliament, with the appropriate speeches of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Granville, in the one instance, of Sir Stafford Northcote and Lord Hartington in the other, are recorded as an authoritative testimony of national regret, and of profound sympathy with the Royal Mother, for whom we have never ceased, these seventeen years past, to feel the reverential tenderness due to a Royal Widow.

Her Royal Highness died a little before eight o'clock in the morning last Saturday, in the Grand Ducal Palace at Darmstadt, her state the day before having been such as to give rise to the greatest alarm, with increased fever, and the swelling having extended to the windpipe or larynx. She had been ill since just after the death of her youngest child, Princess Maria Victoria, a little girl of four years, who had, with others of the family, been attacked by diphtheria. Upon the death of her little one the affectionate mother herself went to the bedside of her son, Prince Ernest, who is ten years of age, and who was suffering from the same disease. It appears to have been upon the occasion of this sorrowful interview, and by a kiss from the poor innocent boy, which his mother could not refuse at such a moment, that the germs of the terrible malady were conveyed to her system.

The sad intelligence was received at Windsor Castle on Saturday morning. The Queen had received previous telegrams from Sir William Jenner to explain to her Majesty the significance of the symptoms observed.

Immediately on the event becoming known in London the Home Secretary wrote to the Lord Mayor communicating the fact, and requesting him to give directions for the tolling of the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral. His Lordship also read the letter from his seat in the Justice Room of the Mansion House, and a copy was posted outside the building.

On Sunday morning and evening, in their pulpit discourses, particular allusions to the mournful event were made by Canon Liddon, at St. Paul's; by Canon Prothero, at Westminster Abbey; by the Rev. H. White, at the Chapel Royal, Savoy; by Canon Spencer, at the Temple Church; by Canon Farrar, at St. Margaret's, Westminster; by the Bishop of Columbia, at St. Stephen's, Westminster; and at most other churches and chapels in the metropolis and throughout the country.

At Darmstadt, on Tuesday, the funeral solemnities in connection with the burial of Princess Alice commenced. The body was removed from the Grand Ducal Palace to the church within the old castle, where the religious ceremony was to take place next day. The hearse was preceded by a half-squadron of Dragoons and a number of Court officials, and was followed by the Royal carriages and another half-squadron of Dragoons.

The torches were carried on either side of the hearse by six servants, and some non-commissioned officers of the Guard made up two lines of escort. There had been a heavy fall of snow during the day, but the night was almost cloudless. The whole of the route to the church was lined with spectators, who respectfully uncovered as the procession passed. The Princess was well known to the inhabitants of Darmstadt, not only through frequently being seen in the town with her husband, but by reason of the personal interest which she took in the local charities and other institutions. The procession having arrived at the church, the coffin, covered with a crimson pall, was placed on a black velvet catafalque, bearing the Grand Ducal crown and the arms and orders of the Princess, and throughout the night was attended by a guard of honour. Between nine o'clock and noon on Wednesday the church was open to the public, and during that time some thousands of persons passed reverently by the coffin. By two o'clock, the hour fixed for the reading of the burial service, the edifice was filled with the nobility, members of the diplomatic corps, the Ministry, military officers, Privy Councillors, members of the two Chambers, the Mayors of Darmstadt and other towns, the municipal councillors, the President of the National Synod, and a deputation of the clergy, officials of the palace, representatives of Ministerial departments, and deputations from various regiments. The right side of the altar was occupied by members of the Women's Union for Nursing Sick and Wounded in War, founded by the Grand Duchess and bearing her name; on the left were ranged ladies who had been presented at Court. Everything being in readiness for the service, the mourners—the Grand Duke of Hesse, the Prince of Wales, Prince Leopold, Prince Christian of Holstein, and the Grand Dukes of Mecklenburg and Baden among others—entered the church, and were conducted to their places with the ceremonies usually observed on such occasions. The Crown Prince and Princess of Germany were not present, the Emperor William having, after a consultation with his physicians, declined to permit them to attend the funeral on account of the risk of infection. In their absence the Imperial family were represented by General Goltz, Colonel Panwitz, Count Matuschka, and Count Seckendorff. M. de Quaede was in attendance for the King of Denmark, General Bunnell for the King of the Belgians, and Baron von Perglas and Count Durkheim for the King and Queen Dowager of Bavaria. The Burial Service, to which some anthems and chorales were added, was performed by Assistant Chaplain Grein, one of the Ducal chaplains, and the Rev. Mr. Sillitoe, the resident English clergyman. The coffin was then removed from the catafalque to a hearse drawn by eight horses, and the sad procession passed to Rosenhohe by way of the Market-place, the parade-ground, the Alexanderstrasse, the Muehlstrasse, and the Erbachstrasse. The route was densely lined with spectators, and the utmost order prevailed.

During the funeral ceremony at Darmstadt and Rosenhohe a solemn service was held at Windsor Castle.

From all parts of the country we have reports of resolutions of condolence carried by Town Councils and other bodies. Minute guns were fired on Wednesday at Woolwich, Chatham, Portsmouth, and Devonport, and the flags of her Majesty's and other ships were flown half-mast high.

We present on the front page of this week's Number the portraits of the lamented Princess Alice and her youngest child, both so lately taken from their afflicted family; and our Extra Supplement consists of a separate Portrait of her Royal Highness, for which, as well as for the subject of our front-page Engraving, we are indebted to a photograph by Mr. Alexander Bassano, of Piccadilly.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Adamson, William, to be Incumbent of St. Paul's, Old Ford.
Bailey, John Allanson; Lecturer of Christ Church, Spitalfields.
Greenoak, Joseph; Perpetual Curate of St. Philip and St. James's, Upnor.
Bartlett, F. A.; Incumbent of St. Michael's, Liverpool.
Bell, Edward; Incumbent of Holy Trinity, Loughborough.
Bensted, T. J.; Rector of St. George's, Oldham-road, Manchester.
Binnie, Alfred Jonathan; Incumbent of St. Silas's, Hunslet.
Boughiey, A. H. F.; Incumbent of St. Michael's, Cambridge.
Buller, W. E.; Vicar of Over Stowey; Vicar of Chard.
Russell, Frederick Vernon; Vicar of Balderton.
Campbell, Dillon Charles; Vicar of Great Redisham, Suffolk.
Campbell, Straton Charles; Vicar of Weasenham All Saints', with Weasenham St. Peter, Norfolk.
Carleton, Edward Crofton Ellis; Perpetual Curate of Holy Trinity, Warrington, Lancashire.
Connell, Archibald J. Campbell; Rector of Monksleigh.
Dale, Thomas Francis; Chaplain, Bombay.
Edwards, Anderson; Vicar of Bridekirk, Cumberland.
Faithfull, James Arthur; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Leicester.
Fitzgerald, F. S.; Rector of Beckingham with Fenton and Stragglethorpe.
Goodacre, Alfred Randolph; Incumbent of St. Thomas's, Camberwell.
Gray, Charles; Chaplain of Northampton Borough Prison.
Griffith, J. W.; Rector of Pentraeth with Llanbedgoch, Anglesey.
Harvey, H. H.; Chaplain of the Dorset County Hospital at Dorchester.
Hill, Frederick Henry; Domestic Chaplain to the Earl of Zetland.
Horwood, R.; Perpetual Curate of St. Michael's, North Rode, Cheshire.
Langbridge, Frederick; Incumbent of Glen Alla, Ray, Letterkenny.
Layton, Henry Gilbert; Chaplain of her Majesty's Prison at Aylesbury.
Linton, Hewett; Perpetual Curate of Abram, Lancashire.
Lister, Thomas Henry; Rector of Somersby.
Loughnan, John Edward; Vicar of St. James's, Bradford.
MacDonnell, John Cotter; Honorary Canon of Peterborough Cathedral.
Morgan, Daniel; Vicar of Bodewryd with Rhosbeirio, Anglesey.
Pattinson, William, Rector of Kirkbampton; Rector of Patterdale.
Plummer, Rowland Taylor; Vicar of St. Paul's, Stepney.
Roberts, Thomas Opie; Vicar of Haverhill.
Sharp, James; Chaplain, Madras.
Sisson, Michael Joseph; Chaplain of her Majesty's Prison, Spalding.
Skrimshire, Henry; Chaplain, All Saints', Dresden.
Slater, Francis; Perpetual Curate of St. James's, Lachford, Cheshire.
Spencer-Smith, Orlando; Rector of Swyre, Dorset.
Stevenson, M.; Chaplain of the London Hospital.
Watkins, John; Rector of Gamlingay.
Winslow, J. L.; Vicar of Seaforth.—*Guardian*.

The Bishop of London has addressed a letter to the clergy throughout his see generally on behalf of the Bishop of London's Fund. He also makes an appeal on behalf of the funds of the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association.

The Bishop and Committee of the Exeter Diocesan Board of Education have appointed the Rev. J. H. C. Hobkirk, Rector of Hittisleigh, Inspector of Schools for the South-Western District in that diocese.

Another Munich window, consisting of five lights, has been erected in the church of Histon, near Cambridge, the artists being Messrs. Mayer and Co.—A rich stained glass window has been placed in the old Church of St. Luke, Charlton, by the Dowager Lady Wilson in memory of her husband, the late Sir John Maryon Wilson.

The New Testament Company have completed their second and final revision. They have held eighty-five sessions, and spent 337 days on the work, which they began in June, 1870. The total number of the company is twenty-four, and the average rate of attendance throughout has been fifteen. There now remains the consideration of any further suggestions that may be made by the American company, and the adjustment of some questions which have been reserved till the end.



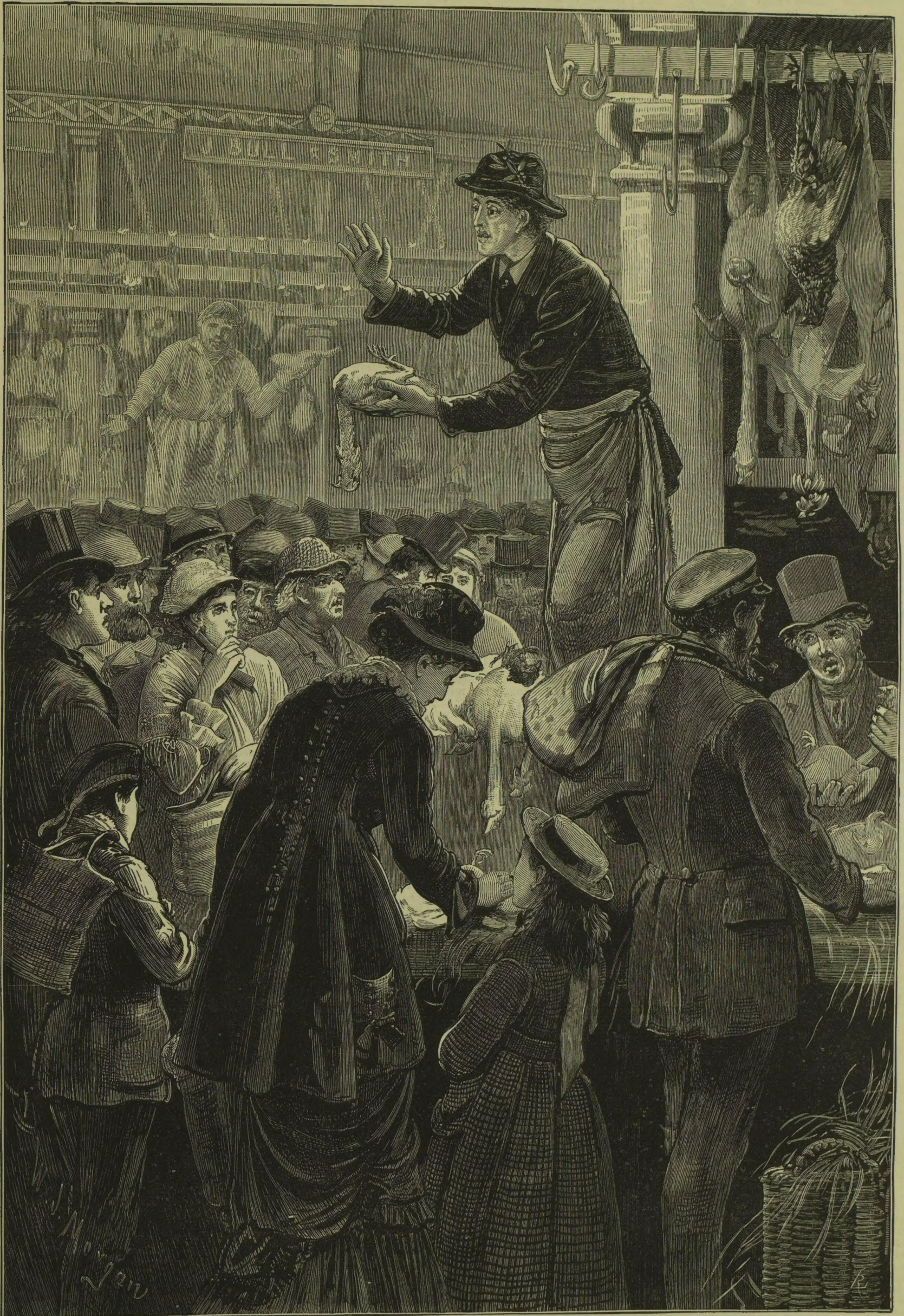
THE AFGHAN WAR: CAMP OF GENERAL ROBERTS AT THULL, ON THE KHOORUM RIVER.

THE AFGHAN WAR.

We have to thank Lieutenant C. H. Atchison, R.H.A., for a sketch taken by him, on the 3rd ult., of the village of Thull, and the banks of the Khoorum river, with part of the camp of Major-General F. S. Roberts's forces, which have, since the 20th ult., advanced up the Khoorum Pass, occupied the upper valley with its forts, stormed the Peiwar, on the 2nd inst., and reached the summit of the Shutargardan, 11,200 ft. above the level of the sea. The tents shown in this sketch are, in the centre, those of the Commissariat storage; to the left, the guard-tent of the 5th Punjaub Cavalry; and the two buildings on the low hill are ancient Mohammedan tombs. This place, Thull, where the troops under General Roberts were concentrated for the central column of advance into Afghanistan, is situated on the frontier, on the left bank of the Khoorum river, fifty-seven miles south-west of Kohat, which was the real base of operations, and forty-two miles from the military cantonment of Edwardesabad, or Bunnoo; it is 168 miles from the city of Cabul, and 198 from Ghuzni, in Afghanistan. The distance from Thull, through the Pass, to Mohammed Azim's Fort, usually called the Khoorum Fort, is about fifty miles. The climate of the Khoorum Valley is described as very salubrious; for about six weeks the winter is severe, but during the spring and autumn it is charming.

The valley is fertile, filled with orchards, and well cultivated. The principal tribes are the Baughash, a large section of whom dwell in the Hungoo and Kohat districts under our rule, and who are peaceably disposed, and the Turis, who are far better fighting material than their neighbours. These two tribes are estimated at a strength of 5000 able-bodied men each. The Jajis can put about 2500, and the Mangals about 2100 fighting men into the field. There are upwards of forty walled villages in the valley, capable of stubborn defence against assailants unarmed with artillery. The chief crops of the valley are rice, wheat, cotton, and barley, which the inhabitants bring down to the fair at Bunnoo. Water, forage, and firewood are abundant throughout the district. The whole of the inhabitants are Mohammedans of the Shia persuasion, and are consequently inimical to the Sonni rulers of Cabul. So long ago as 1849, when the late Sir Herbert Edwardes was employed in the Bunnoo district, the then ruler of Khoorum officially informed the British officer that his tribes were anxious to place themselves under our rule. The occupation of Khoorum and the adjacent Valley of Khost has often been considered as a possible measure by the Indian Government, to be carried out in much the same way as the occupation of Cyprus has been recently achieved—that is, that we were to pay the Ameer his usual annual taxes, amounting to £1500 per annum. It was calcu-

lated there would be a very trifling loss to the Indian Exchequer, but the gain in a strategical sense it was supposed would counterbalance it. There is no doubt that, with strong military posts in the valley, we shall be far nearer Cabul and Ghuzni, and more able to inflict a blow either on the Ameer or on the Afreedis of the Safed Koh, should such steps be desirable. The fort of Khoorum had been garrisoned by the Ameer's soldiers. It was visited not only by Lumsden's Mission in 1857, but also by a force under Sir Neville Chamberlain in 1856. It is by no means a formidable stronghold. It is situated nearly in the centre of the valley, 25 miles east of the Peiwar Pass, 115 west of Kohat, 120 from Cabul, and 150 from Ghuzni. Like the majority of Eastern forts, it is a square mud building; the faces are about 120 yards in length, with circular towers at the angles. A second work, with loftier parapets, is built inside. In this are the magazines and storehouses. The outer work is surrounded by a ditch, which can be flooded at pleasure. Enough has been said of this district to show that the occupation of this valley as far as the Peiwar Kotal is a considerable advantage. Its communications with Kohat, the base of operations of the central column, are easy, and the valley itself will form an admirable secondary base for the ulterior advance on Cabul. Its seizure will undoubtedly be a great blow to the Ameer.



SATURDAY NIGHT IN THE METROPOLITAN POULTRY MARKET. BY W. J. MORGAN.

Ali Khel, which General Roberts has now occupied, is a large village peopled by Jajis, about fifteen miles west of the Peiwar Pass. There is plenty of water, but forage and provisions are scarce. It is 150 miles west of Kohat, and 100 east of Ghuzni. The Darwesh Khel Wuziris, who live on the right or southern bank of the Khoorum, have always been on fairly friendly terms with us; their proximity to the Bunnoo frontier, and their constant intercourse with British subjects, have doubtless induced them to join us. The direct road from Thull to Bunnoo, which follows the course of the Khoorum river, has been used by the convoys, and this is not the first time that route has been followed by British troops. After the Kotul Khel Wuziri Expedition in 1859, the 6th Punjab Infantry, with another corps, returned to their cantonments on the break up of the field force by the bed of the Khoorum, so that it was known to be practicable. If the Wuziris consent, to keep this road clear for our troops and commissariat convoys, it will prove of incalculable advantage. Marwar, the great grain-producing district of the trans-Indus provinces, is within seventy miles of Thull by this route; but, should it be closed, all transport will be compelled to move round by Kohat, a distance of 180 miles. Doubtless our political officers will subsidise the Wuziris largely, in order to ensure the constant use of this valuable road.

The following is the latest news of the campaign received up to Thursday, when this was written; it is communicated by the Viceroy of India, in a telegram on Wednesday:—

"General Sir S. Browne marched for Jellalabad yesterday; hopes to reach on 20th. All quiet in Khyber Pass and neighbourhood.

"General Biddulph has occupied the eastern side of the Khojak Pass. The road had been sufficiently improved to enable him to continue his advance on the 15th inst. General Biddulph hopes to come to an arrangement with the neighbouring tribes for keeping the pass open. Many offers of service have been received. The prospect of obtaining supplies beyond the pass is satisfactory."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

Both Chambers met on the 12th inst. The Senate, after an unsuccessful attempt by the Right at a day's delay, took up the Budget, but did not get through the general discussion. In the Chamber M. Morel's election for Puy, challenged by the Right, was confirmed by 312 to 130; and, after disposing of some other business, the Chamber adjourned till the Senate has discussed the Budget. The debate on the Budget was continued in the Senate yesterday week. After a speech by M. Bocher, who was replied to by M. Léon Say, the general discussion terminated. In the Senate on Saturday M. Waddington, in reply to a question by M. Gontaut-Biron, made a statement of some length respecting the foreign policy of France. That policy, he said, had not varied since the close of the Congress. It was embodied in the instructions given to the French Plenipotentiaries at Berlin. They were to defend the interests of France, to maintain peace, to do nothing to compromise French neutrality, and to avoid all engagements concerning the future. These conditions had been scrupulously respected, and France left the Congress as free as she entered it. She had constantly supported the execution of the Berlin Treaty. No doubt there were difficulties; but, with the accord of the Powers, they must soon be settled. With regard to Greece, M. Waddington said, in the action which France had initiated to secure for that country a sufficient frontier she would not be isolated, but would act in concert with all the Powers. His explanation of the position of the country was adopted as satisfactory, and the Senate passed on to a consideration of the Budget of the Interior. On Tuesday the debate on the Budget was resumed. On the motion of M. Belcastel, a member of the Right, an addition of 100*fr.* a year to the salary of the lower clergy, which had been struck out by the Chamber of Deputies, was restored by 159 to 112. In consequence of this vote the Chamber will have to meet again before the 31st inst., in order to reconsider this portion of the Budget. The Senate on Wednesday adopted the Budget of Expenditure.

Pardons, commutations, or reductions of sentences have been granted to one hundred persons who were condemned in connection with the events of the Commune.

At Paris last week M. Amédée Dufaure, son of the Prime Minister, was married, at St. Augustine's Church, to Mdlle. Nancy Dufaure, daughter of a leading shipowner.

All the Parisian Theatres have introduced Sunday morning performances.

ITALY.

Signor Cairoli having declined, after consideration, to undertake the task of forming a new Cabinet, the King consulted several political leaders, and then sent for Signor Depretis, who has formed a new Cabinet, composed entirely of members of the Left; Signor Depretis taking the office of President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, and provisionally acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

HOLLAND.

The First Chamber on Saturday last unanimously adopted the Indian Budget for 1879.

GERMANY.

The German Emperor and Empress have subscribed 1000 marks between them towards the fund for relieving distress in Heligoland.

Eulogiums have been pronounced over the bier of the Princess Alice by the whole German press and nation.

In Wednesday's sitting of the Lower House of the Prussian Diet a resolution was passed, by a large majority calling upon the Government to bring about as speedily as possible the transfer of the control of the Prussian railway system to the Empire. The Minister of Commerce said the Government would endeavour to give practical effect to the views expressed.

The Treaty of Commerce between Germany and Austria-Hungary to be in operation for the ensuing year was signed at the Foreign Office, Berlin, on Monday.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

The three days' debate of the Hungarian Delegation on Eastern affairs terminated last Saturday in the adoption, by a large majority, of the motion of Herr Hegedus to grant a sum of 20,000,000 florins for the occupation expenses in 1879. Count Andrassy defended the Eastern policy of the Government in a long speech, and maintained that the occupation of Bosnia would not disturb the monarchy or shift its centre of gravity. His speech was received with prolonged cheering. The Austrian Delegation has agreed to the greater number of the resolutions adopted by the Hungarian Delegation, but has resolved to adhere to its former rejection of the proposals having reference to the appointment of an additional number of captains, the building of a new turret-ship, and other matters. In the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet on Monday the bill proposing the prolongation of the military law was passed by an overwhelming majority. Only the members of the Extreme Left voted against the measure. The Hungarian Delegation

assented to the resolutions adopted on the previous day by the Austrian Delegation, and there is, in consequence, no necessity for a common vote. An agreement having been thus effected, the Austrian delegation assembled and voted the common Estimates for the coming year. After a long discussion in Tuesday's sitting of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, a resolution was adopted, by 199 votes against 125, indemnifying the Government for the projected expenditure in the first quarter of the ensuing year. In Wednesday's sitting of the Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath, the Minister of Commerce submitted the Treaty of Commerce with Germany. The treaty was referred to the Economical Committee. The House next discussed the bill authorising the Government to continue levying the taxes for defraying the State expenditure during the first quarter of 1879. After a protracted debate the bill was passed in second and third reading, in accordance with the resolutions of the Budget Committee. The Committee of the Lower House of the Austrian Reichsrath upon the Army Bill has confirmed its former resolution not to discuss the proposal for a prolongation of the present law. The Committee resolved, after a protracted debate, to report in favour of the Government bill, but rejected the proposal to declare itself at the same time on principle in favour of a reduction of the war footing of the army. The Committee also threw out the proposal that the Provisional Army Law should only remain in force until March 1 next.

RUSSIA.

After active communications between the English and Russian Governments, the latter have resolved to formally and officially recall their Mission to Cabul. Russia has further given an assurance that she will evacuate European Turkey within the time fixed by the Berlin Treaty.

Prince Gortschakoff was received on the 12th by the Emperor Alexander, and has resumed the direction of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

According to news received at Berlin from St. Petersburg, the Russian Bank withdrew between the 25th ult. and the 2nd inst. seven millions of paper roubles from circulation, so that now there remain 472 millions of paper roubles current.

AMERICA.

The United States Senate yesterday week passed by 35 votes to 26 the Electoral Bill introduced by Mr. Edmunds respecting the method of counting the votes in the Presidential election. The bill enacts that a disputed vote in any State shall be left to be settled first by the State, and, failing that, by Congress. The American correspondent of the *Times* states that the Senate Appropriation Committee has amended the Diplomatic Appropriation Bill, so as to make it exactly conform to the present state of the service, and also reinstating second secretaries, at London, Paris, and Berlin. The House of Representatives on Saturday last discussed a bill distributing nearly 10,000,000 *dols.* of the Geneva award remaining in the Treasury, but without taking action. Three parties contend for this balance, but nobody in Congress has yet proposed to repay the money to England. In Monday's sitting of the Senate the Chaplain alluded in the opening prayer to the death of Princess Alice, and besought the mercy of the Almighty for those who mourned for her. The Senate has passed Mr. Blaine's resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the alleged cases of intimidation in the Southern States during the recent elections by 56 votes to 6. An amendment to the resolution was also agreed to, making it applicable to the whole of the United States. Congress has adjourned for the Christmas holidays.

AUSTRALIA.

A telegram from Sydney announces that, in consequence of the rejection of the Land Bill by the Legislative Assembly, the New South Wales Ministry has resigned; but by a later telegram on Saturday last we learn that, in consequence of the difficulties attending the formation of a new Cabinet, the former Ministers have agreed to remain in office. Sir John Robertson has resigned his seat in the Legislative Assembly. A telegram from Sydney on Thursday announces that the Legislative Assembly has passed a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry.

A Reuter's telegram from Adelaide says the first match of the English cricketers, under the captaincy of Lord Harris, against sixteen players of South Australia, was finished on Saturday last, and resulted in the victory of the English Eleven by four wickets. The English cricketers, according to a later Reuter's telegram, arrived in Melbourne from Adelaide on Tuesday.

CANADA.

All places of business in Ottawa were closed on Wednesday between the hours of one and three o'clock in the afternoon, as a mark of respect on the occasion of the funeral of Princess Alice. Prayers for the Queen were said in all the churches in Montreal, Quebec, and Toronto on Sunday.

All the Conservative members of the Quebec Legislature have petitioned for the removal of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Luc Letellier de St. Just.

Mr. Philip Anstey Smith, Chief Justice of the Bahamas, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Gold Coast.

Sir Bartle Frere, according to the latest intelligence from the Cape, had sent an ultimatum to the Zulu King Cetewayo.

News received from Lima to Nov. 12, by way of Lisbon, states that ex-President Pardo was murdered as he was entering the Senate.

Lord Lytton left Lahore on Thursday afternoon for Calcutta. All the native chiefs accompanied him to the railway station to bid him farewell.

The portraits in the *Almanach de Gotha* for 1879 are those of the late Queen of Spain, the present Pope, the Duke of Connaught, and the Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia.

The barque Scottish Hero, 869 tons, Captain Mowat, jun., sailed from Gravesend on Dec. 14 with 276 emigrants for Maryborough, Queensland.

Lapland suffered dreadfully from the ravages of wolves during the summer. One third of the reindeer belonging to the Lapps have been destroyed, and nearly all the young ones.

Mr. Pope Hennessy, the Governor of Hong-Kong, has paid a visit to Canton, where he was received in a flattering manner by the Viceroy and the high provincial officials.

A Royal order, issued at Copenhagen, notifies that the marriage of the Duke of Cumberland to Princess Thyra will still take place on the 21st., as the funeral of the late Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt has been fixed for the 18th.

Difficulties with regard to the jurisdiction of the foreign Consuls in Cyprus are reported to have arisen, and negotiations on the subject are stated to have been entered on between the British Government and the Porte.—A telegram from Candia announces that Mr. William Anderson, the superintendent of the telegraph there, was murdered, together with a native servant, outside the gates of the town on Saturday. The deceased was a nephew of Sir James Anderson.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

The Thames Embankment and the Holborn Viaduct are lighted with the electric light.

The annual distribution of prizes of the King's College School was held on Tuesday, in presence of a large company.

Accounts from various parts of the country indicate no diminution in the prevailing distress. Movements for the relief of the existing distress are reported from many towns.

The new Waterloo station of the London and South-Western Railway was opened for passenger traffic on Monday, and was used for the first time by the main line suburban trains, for the accommodation of which it has been erected.

A claim of £300,000 has been made as the value of the Battersea and Albert Bridges, on those structures being taken over by the Metropolitan Board of Works. This sum is refused by that body, and the matter has been referred to arbitration.

Tuesday being "Doctors' Day" at the Merchant Taylors' School, the Master and Wardens of the Merchant Taylors' Company, a crowd of visitors, and the boys, who number more than 500, assembled in the afternoon in the hall of the institution, in Charterhouse-square, to witness the annual delivery of speeches and presentation of prizes.

At yesterday week's meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works a letter from the Home Office was read which informed the Board that her Majesty's Government did not see their way to further the proposed scheme of the Board for the purchase of the water companies of the metropolis. It was resolved that no further steps should be taken with the contemplated bill.

An appeal, signed by Lord Shaftesbury, is being made for funds in aid of the Ragged School Union, which for nearly thirty-five years has been exercising a vast influence for good in the thickest, most wretched, and neglected portions of the metropolis, rescuing from infamy and crime multitudes of children, large numbers of whom are now occupying positions of respectability and usefulness.

A number of gentlemen, representing the British residents in California, attended last Saturday at the official residence of the Premier in Downing-street to present him with an address inclosed in a silver casket, as an expression of their high appreciation of his statesmanship during the late European crisis. Owing, however, to the death of Princess Alice, his Lordship was obliged to postpone the presentation to Thursday.

Mr. Cross and the Duke of Richmond on Monday received a deputation which urged that a general Act should be introduced by the Government with a view of preventing the damage committed by the overflowing of rivers in England. Mr. Cross, while unable then to make any definite statement, expressed his concurrence in the view that if anything was done in the matter it ought to be done by the Government.

The annual festival of the institution established by some members of the National Chamber of Trade for the relief of milk-dealers, who, by reason of misfortunes peculiar to their calling, may be reduced to distress, was held at St. James's Hall on the 13th inst., the company numbering about 400. Mr. J. T. Peacock presided, and in reply to his appeal more than £600 was subscribed. The chairman gave 100 guineas, Mr. E. C. Tisdall 50 guineas, and Mr. H. Nevill 20 guineas.

A meeting, which was numerously attended by representatives of all branches of the Inland Revenue Department, took place on the 12th inst. at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House, the object being the presentation to Lady Stephenson of a portrait of her husband, Sir William H. Stephenson, K.C.B., which had been painted by Mr. Richmond, R.A., at the request of members of the department who had served under Sir William from 1862 to 1877, when he was chairman of the board.

In consequence of the death of Princess Alice the Lady Mayoress's juvenile ball, which was fixed for Jan. 6, has been postponed until the Friday in Easter week (April 18). For the same reason, the presentation of the prizes of the Fanmakers' Company by the Lady Mayoress has been deferred; and the Salters' and Glass-Sellers' Companies have withdrawn their invitations to banquets which they had intended to give before Christmas. The banquet which was to have been given to the First Lord of the Admiralty at the Westminster Palace Hotel has been postponed.

For forty-four years the committee of the Indigent Blind Visiting Society have been labouring most strenuously by visitation, relief, and education, to ameliorate the condition of the blind who are, by reason of their heavy affliction, the most suffering of our poor. The committee deplore the necessity of suspending from relief a large number of most needy and deserving blind persons from want of funds. About 700 are still visited and relieved. A most urgent appeal is made to enable the committee to give coals during the winter and to provide the usual Christmas dinners. Last year £404 were distributed among 809 blind persons. Contributions will be most thankfully received by Mr. W. Colmer, 27, Red Lion-square. The bankers are Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co., Birch Lane.

Sir Brandreth Gibbs presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society, which was held on the 12th inst. The report of the council stated that the society then consisted of 6797 members, showing an increase of 157 during the current year. The funded property remained the same as at the last general meeting—viz., £26,511; the balance at the bank on the 1st inst. was £942, and there was £1000 on deposit. Particulars of the preparations for the next year's gathering of the Royal Agricultural Society were given in the report. The show, which will assume the form and proportions of an International Agricultural Exhibition, will begin on Monday, June 30, and close on Monday evening, July 7. It will be held at Kilburn.

There were 2397 births and 1698 deaths registered in London last week. Allowing for increase of population, the births were 47, and the deaths 89, below the average numbers in the corresponding week of the last ten years. The deaths included 17 from smallpox, 34 from measles, 46 from scarlet fever, 14 from diphtheria, 47 from whooping-cough, 33 from different forms of fever, and 11 from diarrhoea. The deaths from smallpox rose to 17 last week, a higher number than in any week since the beginning of August last. The deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs, which had been 428, 441, and 460 in the three previous weeks, further rose to 501 last week, and exceeded by 15 the corrected weekly average: 350 resulted from bronchitis and 101 from pneumonia. In Greater London 2944 births and 2014 deaths were registered. The mean temperature was 28.4 deg., being 12.5 deg. below the average in the corresponding week of sixty years. The mean was very considerably below the average on each day of the week; the coldest day was Friday, when the mean was but 25.8 deg., showing a deficiency of 14.8 deg. The lowest night temperature was 20.5 deg. on Saturday. The duration of registered bright sunshine in the week was 3.6 hours, the sun being above the horizon during 54.9 hours.

CISSY, THE LITTLE PEACEMAKER.

BY PERCY FITZGERALD.

In the little village of Mytton, Lancashire, is one of the prettiest old churches, where the old Sherburnes sleep, side by side, on their venerable stone couches. Good Squire Leadbetter, the most regular attendant at church, often thought that these recumbent warriors and their noble dames, picturesque as their attitudes were, took up somewhat too much room, and would have exchanged some at least for a few extra pews. He was a vehement man, this Squire—smooth of aspect and courteous in manner, but with a boisterous soul, quick to resent. Some dated this irritability from the death of his wife, the charming, trusting, worshipping Eva Leadbetter, who believed him to be the noblest, cleverest being in the world—which he was not—and that envy, malice, hatred, and ill-will were exerted to prevent his being Prime Minister of England. There was left to him, however, a second Eva, a pretty little child, her mother's replica, a most engaging little prattler, with a sort of child's wisdom and good sense that was rather uncommon.

Cissy was her name; and Cissy Leadbetter used to advise gravely with her father on all the village difficulties and troubles; and sometimes caused him to turn and gaze on her with wonder as she indicated rather than suggested a solution of the difficulty. A very serious little personage, too. The fact was, "mamma's death" had overshadowed the mansion and hid all in it; and roomy as it was—with a fine old stair and some great rooms rambling away, dark, echoing—they lived below, on the ground floor, which was, indeed, ample enough for all concerned. Thus the regions above became associated in her mind with mystery—it seemed akin to the dark clouds on gloomy days, and was, in short, sacred to mamma. Mamma was gone, and the misty realms overhead were, as it were, gone from them too. She had never been up stairs "in my life," she would say, with an air of experience, as though she were forty or fifty years old.

There was another wise personage residing in that rather gloomy mansion—the dog, Neptune by name. A huge bloodhound—solemn and sapient—walking like a philosopher, and with a deep bay or growl that recalled the low pipe of the organ in Mytton church. He was Cissy's friend and companion; both were fast friends, walking out together, and communicating in a way that was sufficiently intelligible. They went out to walk together, and the pair were as well known as the Preston Coach—she tripping it very fast, and Neptune stalking along rather slowly, to accommodate his pace to hers.

But there was another shadow over that young existence. About a quarter of a mile off lived one Squire Hornby, the owner of Hornby Chase, their nearest neighbours and relations, too, whose inviting old house could be seen from the windows of Leadbetter Hall, and more especially that velvet lawn on to which the Hornbys used to troop out for bowls or other pastime—a gay, handsome family of merry girls and boys. Nay, even the ring of their cheerful voices would often be borne to the ears of Little Cissy, looking out wistfully from her own gloomy tenement. How she longed to be with them, she and Neptune, as she saw them fly round and round chasing each other, the bright colours glinting in the sun. But there was a barrier insurmountable. Between the two Squires raged a feud, which dated from the marriage of Mr. Leadbetter. His late wife being a mere girl, and many years younger than he was, was not acceptable to this family; or Squire Hornby had uttered some rough speeches, saying that his friend had been taken in by a little adventuress, a speech which the other had resented, and since his wife's death had turned into a cause for eternal hate. The offence became of a sudden rank, and cried for vengeance. It was an insult to the dead. Then had come a dispute about a bit of land or a path, which was fought with fury; indeed, they would have been glad to contend about a scrap of ribbon or paper—anything for an excuse. And one day the pair had met on the high road, and, dealing out hot words, it had all but come to a blow. After which they never interchanged a word. This was held by all around to be a disastrous thing for the parish; efforts were made to mend matters and set the fracture; and Parson Fenton, under whose guardianship the stone Sherburnes slept "in icy hoods and mails," venturing once to remonstrate with Squire Hornby, received so rude a reception that a third party became drawn into the quarrel, and it was noted by the rustics that "Parson and Squire beant speakin', loike."

All this was miserable and very sad for the poor little mistress of the mansion; for that intimacy, trifling as the occasion might be, would have clearly changed the whole course and colour of her existence. It was hard on Neptune; for here was society for him and acquaintances he would have liked to make. There it was, however, and there it was to be: the little grave, solemn girl, and her dog, and the brooding father, she being brought up in this ascetic way, a perfect little nun. It was, indeed, a sore trial for her: these were such gay, brilliant children, their clothes so fine, their carriages and attendants so brilliant and numerous, and they seemed so happy. On their side the favoured children often took note of the little monastic child, and wondered what a dreary life she must be living. Sometimes they met her on the road, and mamma, an amiable, gentle lady, gave the little pariah a smile. But the papas had sternly forbidden all intercourse.

Now, there are some who may recall the Christmas of 183—, which was one of the "hardest"—expressive term!—that old people can remember. All things were snowed up, high roads and private paths; coaches stopped, gangs of men having to be employed to cut them out of drifts, working like soldiers in the trenches. The branches of old trees, burdened with a weight they were not accustomed to, gave way, and many, enjoying an honoured old age, lost brave old limbs, and were, as it were, ignobly crippled. It was a serious business for Mytton, which was not on the beaten track, and in danger of being altogether cut off from the outer world. Some visitors, too, had been asked for the first time since mamma's death—a period from which all things were dimly reckoned—so she would have company. But two days before Christmas the snow began; and the visitors—friendly cousins—they, too, may have been on the road, and, perhaps, were "snowed up" at some wretched country inn—made no sign. So, instead of its being the cheerful Christmas to which the little nun was looking, it was actually to be more dismal than usual, owing to disappointment.

It was unfortunate, too, that at Hornby Chase there was to be no lively Christmas. Squire Hornby's family had all set off a week before to a gay country house, and papa was to follow; but here was the pitiless snow, which had shut him up. An affectionate man, his situation, removed from children and wife, was pitiable enough.

It was late on Christmas Eve. The snow had ceased falling. Lights were twinkling among the trees, and Cissy was sitting in the window looking out, while her father was gazing vacantly into the glowing logs in the grate. Suddenly there was a sound of trampling in the hall and of cheerful voices, and the stout cook came running up in person to announce the joyful news,

"Please, Sir, here's a hamper's come!"

Down went father and daughter to welcome it, and there was a rough carrier, who had come across from Whalley.

"They got the coach through this morning," he said, "with fifty men working all night; and I thowt, as you'd sent over for the hamper, that this must be she."

"Why, it can't be for me," said Mr. Leadbetter, "we expected no hamper. No one ever dreams of sending me anything."

"Well, you see, Sir, what with the snow and slush, there be no direction, or it be fallen off. But it be for you, in course."

There was no card or direction, but there was the moral certainty from the contents; the carter unpacking it himself, and drawing forth an enormous goose of Leadenhall, so stupendous that Cissy exclaimed, with conviction,

"There, Papa! That proves it—the goose!" There was wine below and there were Strasburg pies, and all sorts of good things.

He went away to his room, and the carrier departed. Cissy left, and carefully making investigation of the treasures of the hamper, began to grow grave, and yet graver. "No," she said; "I begin to think this cannot be for us." It was too splendid; and, when she came to a box containing a pretty little gold cross, with a pair of ear-rings, the most lovely piece of work in the world, for which she would have given her eyes, she shook her head sadly. On the top of this box was a little scrap of paper hastily written over:—"Dearest! I send the things, as you desired; with the ornament for little Ciss. We expect your dear self on Christmas Eve." So it was for them, after all! Oh, what ecstasy—what delight! And the little cross and ear-rings—they were for her! She put both on, as of course, and looked in the glass; then was about to rush up to papa, when the little face grew grave and sad.

"Oh, it can't—it can't be!" she said. "Papa will take nothing from the Hornbys; but he must, for my sake!"

It was quite clear. Welcome as the treasures were in themselves, they were doubly welcome as a peace-offering from the kind, generous, and magnanimous Hornbys.

She rushed to her father, who had retired to his gloomy cave.

"Look—look!" she cried. "It's for us. I found it out. And these trinkets they're for me."

"I am glad," said he, kissing her, "that somebody has thought of you this Christmas and sent you a Christmas-box."

"But who do you think it is?" she said roguishly, and with her wise air.

"I am sure I could not guess," he said, wearily.

"No, I am sure you could not," she answered; "because it's from a person you could never— Oh," she added, impulsively, "isn't it truly generous to forget all the quarrel and make the first advance? For it is one, you know, and"—

She faltered; for there was gathering in his face looks of wonder, anger, and even rage.

"You dared—I mean, they dared! As if we were paupers, to whom they could send their alms at Christmas! Take their gimcracks off!—at once; without an instant's delay! My poor Cis! But it's not your fault."

And, turning from her, he seized his pen, and she knew he was writing a furious letter; for she heard him mutter, "This must come to an end at once—at once!"

Then he called to the servant, and bade him pack up all these things and carry them over to Hornby, "with that letter." "And don't exchange a word with their servants—not a word, mind—but throw it down in their Hall, at their door, and begone." Then he flung himself into his cave again. And the hamper was packed, the stupendous goose reintroduced to his straw, and little Cis sadly took off the cross and earrings, and put them where they were before. It was then carried away.

It began to grow dark, and in that little wise head was a plan being formed. She stole up stairs softly, and paused a moment at the door of her father's study. He was still at the fire, in his high-backed chair; but his face was turned to "Mamma's picture" over his chimney-piece. And she heard him say, "What a Christmas! Since she left me I am a poor desolate wretch." Then he muttered threats, and she heard the words distinctly, "He shall meet me. It has come to that, at last."

Now was Cissy, at the door of the house, tripping forth, having called her faithful Neptune to be her companion. It was a clear night, and the snow had become crisp and hardened under foot. There was nobody abroad on that whitened expanse, but the lights of Hornby Chase glowed through the warm crimson curtains as through old stained glass. For to Hornby Chase she was going—a bold step, indeed; but she was a wise, resolute little woman, who saw that the time was come when something must be done.

The door was wide open. She entered softly. With her, Neptune, stepping solemnly. She met no one. It was an old mansion, full of old oak and old galleries, with men in armour keeping sentinel in the hall and on the stairs. There were no servants about. There was a dance that night at the steward's house, and they had all set off. She ascended the stairs; Neptune, on whose full neck she rested her arm, putting his paws down solemnly and with caution. [See Illustration.] It was a mysterious ascent, up those little short lengths of stairs we meet in old houses—the little lady full of woe, her heart beating; but she pursued her course, making for the light that came from under a door at the end of the gallery, and which she guessed was the Squire's study.

She tapped softly. No one answered. She heard the rustling of papers; then tapped again.

"Come in!" and Cissy, still leaning on her protector, stood in the doorway. The Squire was standing up at a cabinet, going over papers. "What is it?" he said, without turning his head.

"Oh! Sir—Squire Hornby," began the little voice. "Good gracious!" he said, giving a genuine start. Did he think it was a ghost? "Why, what on earth does this mean?" He was so astonished, he could hardly speak.

Cissy exclaimed, "Indeed—indeed, I came, Sir, because—and the ha—ha—mper"—and here, quite overcome with excitement and alarm, she dropped her head on Neptune's shaggy neck and burst into tears.

"My poor, poor little woman," said the Squire, drawing her over to him. "Tell me about it. What is it? What about the hamper?"

Then Cissy, feeling that a great responsibility was cast upon her, collected herself, and proceeded to relate the whole story, giving a graphic picture of the earrings, and even of the stupendous goose.

"You see," she said confidentially, "dear, good Squire Hornby—though we are enemies, I can't help calling you that—papa is in a nervous way from living alone, and he sees things gloomily. What are we to do? Poor dear papa is so wretched, and I don't know what to do; for it all comes on me. O do, Sir, advise me."

"I see," said the Squire, "he believes it comes from me."

"No, no!" said she, eagerly. "I heard him as I came out

bewail himself that there was nobody in the world to care for him."

"I am his friend, and always have been, if he would let me be so. And he is cast down, you tell me, little woman, and lonely this Christmas night?"

"Oh yes, yes!"

The Squire was getting his hat and putting a comforter round his neck.

"I beg your pardon," said Cissy humbly, turning to go; "I see I am taking up your time, but I thought it best to come and tell you about the hamper and prevent more mischief."

"Stay, stay!" said the Squire. "You are not going without me. A little lady like you must not be abroad of nights by yourself."

"Oh! I have Neptune. And are you coming with me?"

He took her hand. They set off across the snow—Cissy wondering and wondering. Here they were, at the door of her own house. She then turned to him expecting he would say "Good-bye." "Oh, thank you, so much." How her little heart fluttered. What was going to be? How would it end?

"What! You are coming in?" she exclaimed in delight.

"Yes," said he, smiling, "if you will help me. Go to your dear father and tell him I have come to see him."

She flew away, and in one moment came rushing back.

"Oh dear, Squire. Go up, go up; go to him! Do you know what he said?—'Thank God! I am not abandoned by all the world.'"

The Squire lifted up Cissy and kissed her; then patted Neptune's big head, and went up stairs slowly. He remained away a very, very long time. Then came her father's voice over the stairs.

"Cissy, my darling, come up."

And she fluttered up, that little peacemaker. Christmas Day was a happy one; for she, her father, and Neptune went over to Hornby Chase and spent an evening of peace and good will.

SATURDAY NIGHT IN THE POULTRY MARKET.

The commodious and rather handsome structure which has been erected by the City Corporation of London, close to the Metropolitan Meat Market, in Smithfield, for the sale of poultry, is a busy place on Saturday night, when wholesale dealers are accustomed to dispose of their remaining stock, in a prompt and summary manner, to a mixed crowd of retail purchasers, not a few of whom seek to provide their Sunday dinner in this way at a moderate cost, instead of going to the nearest poulterer's shop in their own street, and there paying a higher price for it. Here are thrifty housewives, mothers of families, landladies of suburban lodgings, bachelors of epicurean taste but of economical principles, who dine at home on the day of rest, and who are disposed to save a shilling by taking a little trouble, careful working men who fancy they can teach their wives a lesson in household management, and small retailers whose business in their own neighbourhood will begin at a later hour, to go on briskly until the stroke of midnight. To these, and all other comers with money in their hands, eagerly intent upon the object of their quest, is freely offered the surplus supply of plump geese and turkeys, chickens and ducklings, wild-fowl, hares and rabbits, partridges, plovers, and other delicacies of animal food, mostly at a cost much below what one would be charged in the regular tradesmen's establishments; more especially if one's gentility is above carrying the article home in basket or bag with one's own hand, and if the tradesman is expected to give a few weeks' or months' credit. There is a charm, as Dick Swiveller might observe, in this simple practice of purveying immediately for one's own wants and comforts, "to which the rich and powerful are strangers." It may be unfashionable, or even "low," but it is cheap and safe, and not unwise, for people who dwell within reach of such marketing facilities to buy the best they can get, at the most reasonable cost.

Tuesday's *Gazette* states that the Queen has been pleased to confer the Albert medal of the first class on Mark Addy, of Salford, in recognition of his repeated acts of heroism in saving life from drowning in the river Irwell.

The committee of management of the Brompton Hospital for Consumption have, says the *World*, decided that a ward shall be named after the late lamented Major Whyte-Melville, on account of his liberal contributions, amounting in the aggregate to £1600, and the great interest he always felt in its welfare.

The Christmas vacation at the Royal Military Academy began on Tuesday, when Sir John Adye, the Governor, announced the names of the thirty-seven gentlemen to whom commissions had been awarded, and distributed the prizes. In his report the Governor spoke favourably of the soldier-like bearing and conduct of the cadets, and said that during the past term the general state of discipline had been very satisfactory. The Pollock gold medal, for distinguished proficiency, was presented to Under-Officer Stuart Davidson, and the regulation sword for exemplary conduct was awarded to Senior Under-Officer Edward Armitage.

There was a perceptible decrease in the amount of American fresh meat landed at Liverpool last week when compared with the previous one, while the arrivals of live stock were characterised by the same feature. Four steamers reached the Mersey with fresh meat, consisting of 4033 quarters of beef, 852 carcasses of mutton, and 596 dead pigs. There were also landed eight boxes of poultry from Canada. During last Christmas season a large number of turkeys and geese arrived from Canada, and were well received in the English market. The arrivals of live stock amounted to 187 cattle and 751 sheep.—The Allan mail-steamer *Caspian*, which arrived in the Mersey on Wednesday from Canada, had on board a valuable consignment of Canadian poultry for the Christmas market, comprising 203 barrels of turkeys and nine cases of geese and ducks, nearly 4000 head in all. The Dominion steamer *Mississippi*, which also reached the Mersey on Wednesday, brought about 1600 Canadian turkeys and geese. They are all in splendid condition, and were dispatched at once to the leading markets.

Dean Stanley, as president of the Midland Institute at Birmingham, gave an address in the Townhall there on Monday, his subject being an historic survey of American Institutions. The Dean observed that many of the independent States, having been formed on mediæval models, had already decayed, and were fast hastening in that direction. One of the most remarkable facts, he said, about modern America was the development of its institutions, among which the abundance of libraries for the people was the great glory, as it was the great reproach of the metropolis of our own country. Dean Stanley subsequently presented the prizes to the successful students. In concluding his address the Dean alluded in a touching manner to the death of Princess Alice.



"She ascended the stairs; Neptune, on whose full neck she rested her arm, putting his paws down solemnly and with caution."

ILLUSTRATION TO PERCY FITZGERALD'S TALE, "CISSY, THE LITTLE PEACEMAKER." DRAWN BY F. DADD.



A NEW SUIT FOR CHRISTMAS. BY H, WERNER.
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH PUBLISHED BY THE BERLIN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY.

ECHOES OF THE WEEK.

Three score years have passed since England, in one universal outbreak of bitterest grief, mourned the loss of a beloved Princess. The very hopes of the nation's future seemed to have died with the Princess Charlotte of Wales, consort of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. Sorrow as general and as sincere has been awakened in every rank and grade of society by the untimely death of the Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt, Princess Alice of Great Britain. Everybody is heartily and unfeignedly sorry. Everybody deeply sympathises with the bereaved husband, with the poor little children at Darmstadt yonder, left motherless; and, moreover, is deep and reverent pity felt for that August Parent, whose bright and beneficent life journey has yet been marked by three sad gravestones: those of the Duchess of Kent, the Prince Consort, and, now, of the Princess Alice.

It would be wholly inopportune and impertinent, I take it, to say more directly on this head at present. The country has unanimously mourned the dead. The minute guns have been fired; the muffled peals have tolled; and out of respect for the sorrowing kindred that survive it now becomes us, I should say, to be silent. No good purpose can be served by deluging the newspapers with column after column of lachrymose rhetoric, and more or less fulsome eulogy of a deceased Lady whom we know, on the authority of her Mother and her Brother, to have been good, and kind, and clever, but of whom otherwise the great mass of the public could have known but very little. Lord Beaconsfield marred his truly eloquent oration in the House of Lords by suggesting the "Kiss of Death" (with its inexpressibly shocking associations) as a subject for pictorial or plastic illustration. It were better to leave the dead alone. Mr. Alfred Austin has written in the *Standard*, and in much better taste, some very pathetic and well-turned verses on the same subject; but all the dialectical and poetic threnodies of orators and poets will not equal the stern magnificence of Malesherbes' rendering of the Horatian lines—

Le pauvre en sa cabane est sujet à ses lois,
Et la garde qui veille aux barrières du Louvre
N'en défend pas nos loix.

Are we to have a very miserable Christmas? Things at present look sadly like it. Mr. Cross's smooth official words in the House of Commons to the contrary notwithstanding, it has been stated, on indisputably good authority, that there exists an appalling amount of misery and distress among the working people in the provinces, especially in the North. Lord Blantyre, in his letter to Mr. Gladstone, seems to think that the poor are, as a rule, very well off indeed; and that, looking at the care taken of our necessitous fellow-countrymen by the Poor Law "and other benevolent institutions," Parliament might well have agreed to a grant for the relief of the Rhodope refugees. The other day they were the "Rhodope insurgents;" but let that pass. In the parish in which I take the liberty of residing I pay a poor's rate of fourteen pence in the pound; but I have not yet been able to discover the beneficence of the Poor Law. Perhaps I shall find it out when I am broken, and am fain to seek the relieving officer and solicit indoor or outdoor relief. So far as things go at present, I am happy to believe that St. Pancras Workhouse is a very spacious and well-managed establishment; still, the thoroughfares of the parish appear to me to be swarming with beggars and with hungry and ragged folk; and, in fine, the experience of many years convinces me that the first thing done by the Poor Law in the presence of any great disaster, such as an epidemic, a famine, a flood, or an unusually hard frost, is to break down, utterly. What has become of my fourteen pence in the pound? I must make it up (if I can) to twenty pence by subscribing to the "other benevolent institutions" hinted at by the excellent Lord Blantyre. Mind, I see no harm in sending something to the Rhodope sufferers; but, at the same time, we should not forget the claims of the poor-box at Bow-street and the other police courts.

Mem: A lady asked me, the other day, which was the best Charity to which to send a Christmas donation. "Madam," I replied, "a celebrated gourmet was once asked which was the best sauce for fish. 'All sauces,' he made answer." All charities are good to subscribe to; only, before you draw your cheque or cut your five-pound notes in halves, just take the trouble to enrol yourself as a member of the Charity Organisation Society, and make sure, by careful inquiries, that the Charity which you have selected for support is not a swindle.

Juvenile balls put off; Royal visits abandoned; Westminster plays suspended; the shops in Regent-street and Oxford-street full of half mourning gear: assuredly these portents do not seem to foretell a very merry Christmas. Yet the deluge of Christmas-cards is more overwhelmingly abundant, more irresistibly brilliant, and more fascinatingly pretty this year than ever. It is true that these tasteful trifles are put in hand in early spring; and that last March we could not foresee the coming about of "Peace with Honour"—and an Afghan war; the collapse of trade, destitution in the manufacturing districts, and other troubles. I admire Christmas-cards, and advocate the circulation thereof, from an artistic, a commercial, and a sentimental point of view: first, because the prodigious demand for them tends to keep alive the beautiful art of chromolithography; next, because the production of the cards gives remunerative employment to innumerable hands, including a large number of lady-artists; and, finally, because the interchange of these radiant missives stimulates kindly spirit and good-feeling among all classes. So I mean to scatter Marcus Ward's and Delarue's pretty cartoons broadcast.

I have experienced a sad—a dreadfully sad—sensation this week. From my early childhood I have suffered from defective vision. For awhile I was totally blind; and since my partial recovery, more than forty years since, I have had only one working eye, with the aid of which I have been mercifully permitted to do a good deal on paper, on steel, on copper, and on wood. But things ocular have now come to that pass that I can no longer read even my *Pall Mall Gazette*, much less write a letter by candlelight without glasses. So I went last Wednesday to a famous firm in Regent-street to be measured for a pair of spectacles. The obliging optician subjected me to a cross-examination, lasting full twenty minutes, as to what I had been doing all my life through in the reading and writing line, and as to what I could see, or could not see at present. Ultimately, with a view to the delivery of the spectacles, he politely asked me for my name and address, which I gave him, somewhat shamefacedly. One does not like to "own up" in the matter of the first pair of spectacles. "Ah!" he remarked, coolly, as he booked the necessary particulars, "We've been waiting for you a long time." Horror! Fancy being "waited for" by an optician. Are the Economic Funeral Company and the marble masons in the Highgate-road waiting for me, I wonder?

Musical critics tell me with enthusiasm about a new lady pianiste, Miss Bessie Richards, who was the other day suddenly called upon to play at Madame Viard-Louis's concert, and

achieved a brilliant success in Chopin's scherzo in B flat. Miss Bessie Richards seems to have gone through a somewhat crucial course of training. After studying in England, she went to Leipzig, and was informed by the musical magnates of the Conservatorium there that she had talent, but that her "method" was totally wrong. She studied sedulously for two whole years at the Conservatorium in question, and then, thinking herself tolerably proficient in her most difficult art, she went to Dresden. Said the most eminent professor of music in the Saxon capital to her, "The first thing you have to do, esteemed young lady, is to unlearn everything that you have learned at Leipzig." After this I should certainly have abandoned the pianoforte for the big drum; but Miss Bessie Richards was not to be discouraged. She studied for twelve months with the most eminent professor in Dresden, and now it is to be hoped she will be recognised as a Mistress of Arts.

I like very much the lithographed picture "At the Play" in the Christmas Number of the *World*, containing portraits of the celebrities of the day, who are supposed to be congregated in the boxes and stalls of the Lyceum on one of Mr. Henry Irving's "first nights." By-the-way, Mr. Irving's "first night," as manager as well as actor, is fixed for Monday, the 30th inst., and there will be, I should say, a rare gathering of celebrities in Wellington-street on the evening in question. The more striking portraits in "At the Play" are those of Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. Montagu Corry, Mr. George Lewis, Lord Alfred Paget, and especially Mr. Montague Williams. Some of the other portraits lack strength and directness.

"The English Colony at Wiesbaden" send me a post-card politely asking me whether that delightful little *prima donna* Piccolomini, who fascinated us all in the "Traviata" some twenty years ago, was a soprano, a mezzo-soprano, or a contralto. I am very much the servant of the "English Colony at Wiesbaden," but I am not a musical critic, and am no judge of the voices of *cantatrici*. Thus much, however, I find at page 376 of the late Mr. Benjamin Lumley's "Reminiscences of the Opera":—Her (Piccolomini's) voice was a high and pure soprano, with all the attraction of youth and freshness; not wide in range; sweet rather than powerful, and not gifted with any perfection of fluency or flexibility. Her vocalisation was far from being distinguished by its correctness or excellence of school. Her acting was simple, natural, graceful, and apparently spontaneous and untutored. To musicians she appeared a clever amateur, but never a great artist. Elsewhere Mr. Lumley speaks of Piccolomini as "a great little cloud compeller" and "a darling pet."

His Majesty the King of the Hellenes has conferred on Mr. Blanchard Jerrold the highly-prized decoration of an officer of the Order of the Redeemer, in grateful acknowledgment of his distinguished services in the cause of Christianity and Greek freedom. Mr. Blanchard Jerrold is probably an accomplished Romain scholar; so he will permit me to say to him, *Kyrie Hippotes! Sas synchairo cilikrinestata kai ex oles kardias mou!* G. A. S.

"A NEW SUIT FOR CHRISTMAS."

In this pleasant scene of homely German life, where the Christmas Tree has been duly prepared with its lanterns or tapers all ready to be lighted, and with its appointed gifts for the gratification of each member of the happy family, we behold the entrance of a bright young person, Master Fritz, or Karl, or whatever his name, who is attired in a new suit of clothes for the festive occasion. Such boys have we seen in England, not less elated in spirit by the consciousness of a similar improvement in their outward covering, more especially at that momentous stage of first wearing the breeches, the trousers, or the "knickerbockers," which comes to male mankind once in a lifetime, with the sensation of advanced dignity, as a foretaste of the masterly prerogatives of their sex. The mother or nurse, who has dressed this cheerful youngster in such a becoming fashion, seems little inclined to reprove his juvenile exhibition of personal vanity; and the kind old grandmother, as she looks up from the Bible to greet his approach, is delighted with the brave little man. We are not equally sure of the approval of his little sister, refraining as she does from a glance of admiring curiosity, and devoting her whole attention to the unconscious doll which is fondled in her lap. She may have her private opinion that "Brother" thinks too much of himself, and that men and boys, in general, are too apt to give themselves the air of Lords of Creation. As for the dog, we should like best of all to know his mind upon the subject, but the reader is quite as well able as we are to interpret the wondering wistfulness of his look, and the subdued agitation of his bushy tail. The father's old jacket, hanging beside the door, might be pointed to as a reminder that this urchin will not very often get a new suit of clothes, and that he must learn betimes to work for his own needs.

Mr. C. P. Gardner, B.A., of Cambridge, was on Tuesday selected, from more than 700 candidates, to fill the post of secretary to the Curates' Augmentation Fund.

Messrs. Waterlow and Sons have issued a useful Professional Pocket-Book, being a Daily and Hourly Engagement Diary for 1879.

The ceremony of shutting the gates of Derry was carried out on Wednesday with perfect success in all the traditional details, including the burning of the effigy of Lundy.

In consequence of the bad times Lord Chesham has remitted 10 per cent of the rent paid by his tenants in Bucks for the year, and also allowed them half the sum they have paid since the last rent audit in respect of school board rates.

The total collections at Birmingham on Hospital Sunday, Oct. 27 last, for the benefit of the local Queen's Hospital, amounted to £6400, which was £600 more than in any previous years since the Hospital Sunday collection was started.

The steamer *Byzantin*, belonging to the Fraissinet Company, of Marseilles, and bound from that place to Constantinople, and the steamer *Rinaldo*, of Hull, from Hull to Constantinople, with a general cargo, are reported by Lloyd's Constantinople agent to have been in collision near Gallipoli. The French steamer sank with 150 persons who were on board, the English steamer sustaining only slight damage.

A large number of prize-distributions to metropolitan volunteer corps took place last week, chief amongst which were those of the 1st London and 1st Middlesex Engineers, the 3rd London, the 4th Middlesex, 26th Middlesex, 37th Middlesex, 40th Middlesex, 46th Middlesex, 1st Surrey, and 10th Tower Hamlets Rifles. In all cases, except that of the 4th Middlesex, the returns showed an improvement upon the past year; and in the case referred to the commanding officer, Lord Truro, ascribed the falling off to the fact that a large number of their men had joined the regular service since the previous year. The 46th made greater progress than any other corps in the metropolis during the past twelve months, having added 250 to its enrolled establishment, and returned about 98 per cent of efficient.

PARLIAMENT.

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE WITH THE QUEEN.

The general feeling of deep regret occasioned throughout the country by the sad intelligence of the death of Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt, found apt expression in both Houses of Parliament at the beginning of the week.

Reassembling after a week's adjournment on Tuesday, their Lordships in the Upper Chamber confined themselves to passing the Vote of Condolence with her Majesty, eloquently proposed by the Earl of Beaconsfield, and as eloquently seconded by Earl Granville. With deep feeling, Lord Beaconsfield described the virtues of Princess Alice, and particularised the special mark of motherly love which cost her Royal Highness her life. The Prime Minister said:—

A Princess who loved us, though she left us, and who always revisited her fatherland with delight—one of those women the brightness of whose being adorned society and inspired the circle in which she lived—has been removed from this world, to the anguish of her family, her friends, and her subjects. Princess Alice—for I will venture to call her by that name, though she wore a crown—afforded one of the most striking contrasts that I can remember of richness of culture and rare intelligence combined with the most pure and refined domestic sentiments (Hear, hear). You, my Lords, who knew her life well, can recall those agonising hours when she attended the dying bed of her illustrious father, who had sketched out her studies and formed her tastes. You can recall, too, the moment at which she attended her Royal brother at a time when the hopes of England seemed to depend on his life (Hear, hear); and now you can remember too well how, when the whole of her own family were stricken by a malignant disease, she had been to them the angel of the house, till at last her own vital power was perhaps exhausted and she has fallen. My Lords, there is something wonderfully piteous in the immediate cause of her death. The physicians who permitted her to watch over her suffering family enjoined her under no circumstances whatever to be tempted into an embrace. Her admirable self-restraint guarded her through the crisis of this terrible complaint in safety. She remembered and obeyed the injunctions of her physicians. But it became her lot to break to her son, quite a youth, the death of his youngest sister, to whom he was devotedly attached. The boy was so overcome with misery that the agitated mother clasped him in her arms, and thus she received the kiss of death. My Lords, I hardly know an incident more pathetic. It is one by which poets might be inspired, and in which the professors of the fine arts, from the highest to the lowest branches, whether in painting, sculpture, or gems, might find a fitting subject of commemoration (Hear, hear). My Lords, it is impossible to depict at this moment the sufferings of the husband whom she has left behind and of the children who were so devoted to her; but our duty is to offer our condolence to one whose happiness and whose sorrows always excite and command the loyalty and affectionate respect of this House.

The eulogium pronounced by Earl Granville on the late Princess was of equal interest by reason of the noble Earl's reference to his own recollections of her Royal Highness, and also by reason of the touching passages which he read in conclusion from a letter addressed to him by the Prince of Wales. The Leader of the Opposition said:—

The accidents of a political career gave me some opportunity of observing the domestic life of the Royal family during the course of eleven years. At the beginning of that period Princess Alice was a singularly attractive child of seven years old. I doubt whether any childhood or youth was ever more joyous and bright, or ever gave a livelier promise of that which has been so amply fulfilled. At the end of that time I had the honour of proposing an address in this House on her Royal Highness's marriage—a marriage founded upon all the best securities for wedded happiness. The child had grown into womanhood with all those personal, moral, and mental qualities which the noble Earl has so well described. The principal characteristics of her married life appear to have been—first, absolute devotion to her husband and children; next, a course not merely of benevolence, but of unceasing thoughtful beneficence to all depending upon her; and, lastly, a remarkable talent for acquiring the sympathy and attracting the regard of some of the most gifted of the intellectual country which she had adopted, and to whose interests she was devoted without ever breaking a link in the chain of memories and associations which bound her to the country of her birth. The noble Earl has already alluded to the singular coincidence of three dates which will never pass from the pages of English history. My Lords, I trust that neither the writer nor your Lordships will think it indiscreet if, instead of trusting to my own language to impress your feelings as to the loss which has on this last 14th of December befallen the Royal families of England and Darmstadt, I read to you a few words extracted from a letter written on the day of the sad tragedy by a brother passionately devoted to his sister, and who left England last night to pay the last sad tribute of affection and respect to her beloved memory:—

"So good, so kind, so clever. We had gone through so much together—my father's illness, then my own; and she has succumbed to the pernicious malady which laid low her husband and children, whom she nursed and watched with unceasing care and attention. . . . The Queen bears up bravely, but her grief is deep beyond words."

Their Lordships, having fulfilled their mournful duty of agreeing to the Vote of Condolence with the Queen on the melancholy occasion, adjourned till Thursday, Feb. 13 next.

Language to the full as loyal and sympathetic as that which came from Lord Beaconsfield and Earl Granville introduced the Vote of Condolence to the Lower House on Monday—the Chancellor of the Exchequer moving, and the Marquis of Hartington seconding, the Address with characteristic directness. Sir Stafford Northcote, indeed, has rarely expressed himself more happily than he did in the few sentences wherein he summed up the exemplary character of the late Princess Alice, and elicited sympathetic cheers from both sides the House when he added:—

Before such a sorrow it is almost impossible to speak; and yet we know that words of sympathy are most valuable, and that by no one is the power of sympathy more valued than by her Majesty; for we have her own example to show that no calamity falls upon any portion of her people but she is the first, by kindly words and kindly message, to manifest her own sympathy. I feel convinced the House will unanimously agree to an Address which will testify at once our personal affection for the Sovereign, our deep sorrow for her loss, and our earnest prayer that God may support her in her affliction.

THE AFGHAN DEBATES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Briefly as the rest of the proceedings in the Lower Chamber may be summed up, a few salient points in the conclusion of last week's debate yet require mention. On Thursday week, for example, Mr. Grant Duff's able speech having been replied to by Mr. Bourke, Mr. A. E. Gathorne Hardy vigorously wielded the cudgels in defence of his father, Lord Cranbrook; but the liveliest speech of the night came from Mr. Goschen, who, besides attacking the Government with spirit, succeeded in demonstrating that the Opposition had no more intention of tolerating Russian intervention in Afghanistan than Ministers had. The following (Friday's) sitting saw Sir Stafford Northcote early on his legs to give notice of a motion for a grant in aid of the sufferers in the Rhodope district—an announcement which induced Mr. Anderson a little later to proclaim that, in view of the wide-spread distress prevailing in our own country, he proposed to meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer's motion with a direct negative. Then came the tug of war. Resuming the Afghan dispute, Earl Percy opined the House would approve the policy of the Ministry. But this declaration of confidence did not hinder Sir William Harcourt from attacking the Government tooth and nail for fostering a "blood-and-thunder policy." Epithets, indeed, abounded in Sir William Harcourt's rushing oration, to which the Attorney-General's plain, unvarnished advocacy formed a strong contrast. Among other notable speeches, that of Mr. Burt denouncing the Afghan War on behalf of the working classes whom he represented, and that of Sir A. Gordon explaining that because of his disagreement with the course adopted by Government he had been driven to seek the freer air of the Opposition side, attracted some attention. To those hon. members succeeded Mr. R. E. Plunkett, Mr. Courtney, and Mr. Newdegate. The Marquis of Hartington displayed unusual energy in adducing reasons why he would support Mr. Whitbread's amendment. Nothing daunted, Sir Stafford Northcote gallantly defended

Lord Lytton and the Marquis of Salisbury from the aspersions cast upon them, and grew quite warm in his earnest and manly vindication of the Viceroy. With regard to the general question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer contended that in entering into this war there had been no change from the old policy towards Afghanistan, but rather a development of it. One sentence from the right hon. gentleman's well-argued speech will illustrate this point. "So long (said Sir Stafford Northcote) as the Russians were only moving in Central Asia I think there was no cause for advancing beyond our frontier; but when you find a Russian Mission sent to Cabul, and sent avowedly because there was an unfriendly feeling between England and Russia, and because Russia thought that was the point we were most vulnerable on, I maintain that all the circumstances on which Lord Lawrence founded his policy were so completely revolutionised that the very argument which supported it in the case of one policy would, I think, warrant us in taking a totally different view of what was to be done." The British Mission having been refused a passage through the Khyber Pass, an affront had been offered, no apology had been made, and, for the sake of maintaining unsullied the credit of English rule in India, the Government had been impelled to declare war against the Ameer. The House then divided on Mr. Whitbread's amendment disapproving "the conduct of her Majesty's Government, which has resulted in the war with Afghanistan." The majority for Ministers was 101—328 voting against the amendment, and 227 for it.

On Monday the Address of Condolence with her Majesty was agreed to, as already observed. It then became the by-no-means agreeable duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make plain to the House that the Government had retired from the benevolent position they had wished to take up with regard to the Mohammedan sufferers from the alleged outrages in the Rhodope districts of Turkey. In stating that he did not intend to proceed with the motion for a grant of money to these distressed people in the East, the Chancellor of the Exchequer intimated that overtures on the subject had been made to certain Foreign Powers, but confessed that the coolness with which the House had received the proposition damped the philanthropic ardour of the Cabinet. This acknowledgment of fallibility did not escape hostile comment from the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. Anderson, Sir George Campbell (who pertinently pointed out that the Turkish Government, while unable to receive these refugees, yet contrived to pay for the importation of plenty of arms and ammunition from America), Sir William Harcourt, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Dillwyn, Mr. Serjeant Simon, and Mr. Gladstone; but Sir Stafford Northcote was, peradventure, consoled by the protection condescendingly offered him by Sir Robert Peel, albeit the Leader of the House was finally compelled to eat the leek, and afford yet another exemplification of the truth of the Gallic adage, *Qui s'excuse s'accuse*. Not without ability, certainly not without confidence, did Mr. E. Stanhope next introduce the subjoined resolution:—

That, her Majesty having directed a military expedition of her forces charged upon Indian revenues to be dispatched against the Ameer of Afghanistan, this House consents that the revenues of India shall be applied to defray the expenses of the military operations which may be carried on beyond the external frontiers of her Majesty's Indian possessions.

Mr. Fawcett exhibited his well-known mastery over Indian affairs in moving as an amendment:—

That this House is of opinion that it would be unjust that the revenues of India should be applied to defray the extraordinary expense of the military operations now being carried on against the Ameer of Afghanistan. Waning space precludes our saying more than that among the other chief speakers on the first night for or against the resolution were Mr. Gladstone (times have changed indeed when the right hon. member for Greenwich is found seconding a motion by Mr. Fawcett!), the Attorney-General, Sir George Bowyer, Mr. Laing, Mr. Smollett, Mr. Osborne Morgan, and Sir George Campbell. On Tuesday (after a desultory conversation, in which Lord Elcho expressed his sympathy with the Rhodope sufferers) Dr. Playfair had the first word in the Indian debate, and was replied to by Lord George Hamilton. Sir Henry James was followed by the Solicitor-General; and the tedium of debate was relieved by a welcome speech from Sir Wilfrid Lawson, and a diatribe from Mr. Mundella. Mr. Childers's profound discourse was not followed in all its meanderings by Sir Stafford Northcote, who virtually contented himself with promising some more definite financial information a few months hence—a promise that satisfied neither the Marquis of Hartington nor Mr. Jacob Bright. Quite contented, however, were hon. members who form the majority, for they defeated Mr. Fawcett's amendment by 235 to 125 votes, and then carried the resolution. In the course of the debate, it should be mentioned, Lord Barrington, the Vice-Chamberlain, read at the table the Queen's gracious reply to the Address:—

Your loyal and dutiful address affords me much satisfaction. I feel assured I shall receive your cordial co-operation and support in all the measures which may be deemed necessary for upholding the honour of my Crown and for maintaining the great interests of my Empire.

It was getting on for one o'clock on Wednesday morning when the House adjourned to Feb. 13 next.

The prospectus for the eighth annual drawing of the Printers' National Art-Union has been issued, and bears favourable comparison with any of its predecessors.

"UNDER THE OLD FLAG."

The custom of preserving an old set of regimental colours by suspending them, as an historic trophy, in the aisle of some Cathedral Church or other dignified ecclesiastical building, may be connected with that ceremony of blessing the colours, when newly bestowed upon the regiment, in which prelates and influential clergymen have not unfrequently borne an officiating part. The Established Church of England, as its social and political traditions have always seemed to be intimately allied with the sentiments of national loyalty and patriotism, has not hesitated, in general, to lend a certain degree of moral support to the military and naval services of the Crown; and the British Army, in the frank and faithful performance of its duty, without respect to the merits of any particular war, has often been mentioned with respect in sermons from the English pulpit. There is, indeed, a distinct and express Article of this Church, among the well-known Thirty-nine, which affirms the lawfulness of soldiership, if not as an ordinary profession, at least in compliance with the bidding of the civil magistrate in case of need. Without alluding further to any scruples of conscience which good and religious men, such as the Quakers, have now and then entertained upon this subject, we may remark that there appears no incongruity in the sentiment with which a retired veteran, such as we see in Mr. Frank Dadd's interesting design, may be imagined to stand and meditate "under the flag," within the consecrated walls of a venerable Gothic church, and devoutly to muse upon the experiences of his past life, in gratitude for merciful preservation from many dangers in the field of battle, and with a sincere faith in the promises which are the foundation of Christian hope. The presence of his little daughter, or more probably grand-daughter, must give additional sweetness to this moment of serene contemplation; while there is a suggestion of antique and chivalric heroism in the stone effigy of a mailed Crusader, lying upon the mediæval tomb, above which these tattered remnants of "the old flag" were hoisted, as we suppose, not very long ago.

THE CHRISTMAS CATTLE SHOW.

Several days of last week brought their crowds of people to Islington for the yearly Cattle Show, being the eighty-first of the Smithfield Club and the seventeenth held at the Agricultural Hall. The gross number of visitors to this year's show is about 113,000, or more than 8000 fewer than last year. The principal features of this year's show have been the general evenness of the live stock in point of excellence, and the fair prices realised by the sales, although at the close there were a good many still on hand and reserved for the Christmas market. We give illustrations of two of the finest animals exhibited, a heifer and an ox, each of which won a first prize in its class, and the gold cup of honour, the heifer being deemed worthy of the championship.

THE ALEXANDRA PARK DOG SHOW.

The twelfth exhibition of sporting and other dogs, under the management of the "Kennel Club," was held at the Alexandra Palace, Muswell-hill, from Thursday week to Monday last. This show was quite a success, there being 1058 entries, including most of the champion dogs of other shows. In the champion class for bloodhounds the prize for dogs was taken by Mr. Morrell's Rollo, and for bitches by Mr. R. Johnstone Auld's Mona, which has taken prizes at most of the principal shows in the kingdom. In the champion class for mastiffs (dogs only) the Shah, the celebrity of all the recent shows, belonging to Mr. Harris, was an easy first. The first prize in the ordinary classes for dogs was taken by Mr. Edgar Hanbury's Rajah; and for bitches by Mr. T. W. Allen's Creole. Among the St. Bernard's, the champion classes had only one representative, Mr. Gresham's Monk and the same exhibitor's Shah, both which, of course, took first prizes. The prize retriever (not black), was Mr. Lewis Mackenzie's Garnet, and the first black retriever was Mr. J. W. Morris's Monk. Mr. Maule's Tragedy and Miss Jaquet's Tum Tum gained the first and second prizes respectively for pugs. The attendance of visitors was fairly good, considering the weather.

The will and codicil of Mr. James Johnston, the proprietor of the *Standard*, who died on Oct. 21 last, has just been proved by Mr. Mudford and the two other trustees and executors, the personality being sworn under £500,000. The testator bequeaths the sum of £10,000 to his son by his first wife, and legacies of £3000 to each of his daughters by that marriage. An annuity of £2000 per annum is left to his widow, legacies of £300 each to two of his servants, and of £500 to each of his executors. There are one or two other trifling bequests. The testator directs that, with the exception of the above bequests, the whole of his real and personal property, including the goodwill and property of the *Standard* newspaper, shall be held in trust for the benefit of his five children by his second wife. By a codicil to the will the testator directs that Mr. Mudford is to remain as editor of the *Standard* for his lifetime, or until such time as he shall voluntarily resign the editorship; and further directs that the paper is to be carried on in every respect as it was being carried on at the time of his death.

ELECTION NEWS.

The election of a member of Parliament for Bristol to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Kirkman Hodgson (Liberal) took place last Saturday. Mr. Lewis Fry, the Liberal candidate, was returned by a majority of 1547 votes over his Conservative opponent, Sir Ivor Guest, the numbers having been 9342, against 7795. The Liberals polled 454 more, and the Conservatives 727 fewer, than at the general election.

The polling for New Ross, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Mr. John Dunbar, took place on Tuesday, when Colonel Tottenham, the Conservative candidate, polled 95 votes, and Mr. Delany, Home Ruler, 90. Mr. Redmond had retired.

The nomination for the county of Londonderry, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Professor Smyth, took place on Monday. The candidates proposed were Sir Thomas McClure, Liberal, and Mr. Samuel Maxwell Alexander, Conservative. Thursday was appointed for the polling.

The requisition to Mr. Gladstone inviting him to come forward as a Liberal candidate for Manchester, and signed by 700 members of the executive of the Manchester Liberal Association, was forwarded to the right honourable gentleman on Tuesday.—At a meeting of the Liberals of Midlothian, held in Edinburgh on Wednesday, a letter was read from Mr. Gladstone agreeing to contest Midlothian (Edinburghshire) at the next general election should the Liberal committees be united in his favour.

Lord Robert Montagu, M.P., has announced his withdrawal from the Home-Rule League, on the ground that the course taken by the Home-Rule party in Parliament during the last three Sessions has been injurious to the movement.

The meeting of the shareholders in the West of England and South Wales District Bank was held in Bristol on Wednesday, to receive the report of the official liquidators.

At Bow-street on Thursday, Edward Byrne Madden, aged fifty-six, who is said by the reporter to be a peculiarly mild and inoffensive looking man, and who is described as an "interpreter of languages," was charged on remand before Sir James Ingham with having threatened to kill the Queen. The defendant was apprehended on a warrant issued by the chief magistrate, in consequence of certain language used by the prisoner in letters addressed to the Hon. Adolphus Liddell, the Right Hon. R. A. Cross, and to Lord Lyons. Translations of the letters were read by the chief clerk. The prisoner was committed for trial.

The Christmas parties of this year may obtain a great deal of novel and ingenious entertainment from the "Guinea Box" of apparatus for optical and other scientific illusions of the senses which the London Stereoscopic Company has again provided. For the amusement of the youngest and the gayest Messrs. Thomas Smith and Co., of Wilson-street, Finsbury, have prepared a variety of "surprise crackers," which are exceedingly pretty in their decorative wrappings, and doubtless contain many sweet morsels of sugarcandy, with sweeter flatteries in the versified mottoes. We hope these things will help to make the long evenings seem short.

The executive of the City of Glasgow Bank Relief Committee met yesterday week, the Lord Provost presiding. The total sum subscribed now amounts to £321,423, of which £168,634 is from Glasgow, and £152,789 from other parts. The meeting was of opinion that the case of any shareholders of the Caledonian Bank who might be placed in necessitous circumstances through the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank should be favourably entertained.—Mr. Scott, one of the partners in Messrs. J. Innes Wright and Co., was examined in connection with his bankruptcy in Glasgow on Monday, and at the close of his examination was apprehended on a charge of embezzling £48,000, the proceeds of bills accepted by the City of Glasgow Bank. The trial of the directors is fixed to commence at Edinburgh on Jan. 20.

Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons, the eminent pianoforte makers, of Wigmore-street, have manufactured a magnificent grand pianoforte for Mr. E. Ledger. The instrument comprises several most important improvements, whereby the touch and tone are brought to rare perfection. The mechanism applying to the key-board is simple and solid in structure, but nevertheless realises a touch that is most agreeable to the player, commanding all degrees of power and delicacy, and great readiness of repetition. The tone is of extreme beauty, and is unusually prolonged in vibration by the peculiar construction of the sounding-board, a specialty in which is that the thickness is greatest in the centre, diminishing towards the edges. The method of stringing, too, and additional bridges, are peculiar, and tend much to enhance the sonority and vibrating power. Another important feature in the instrument is the addition of a third pedal, which gives the performer the power of sustaining, almost indefinitely, some notes, while others may be played staccato. This is a particularly valuable quality. The metal framework used in the interior is of the most substantial kind, bracing the instrument together with a force that renders it independent of atmospheric changes. The workmanship is of the highest excellence in all the details, and the instrument is, altogether, an admirable specimen of English manufacture.

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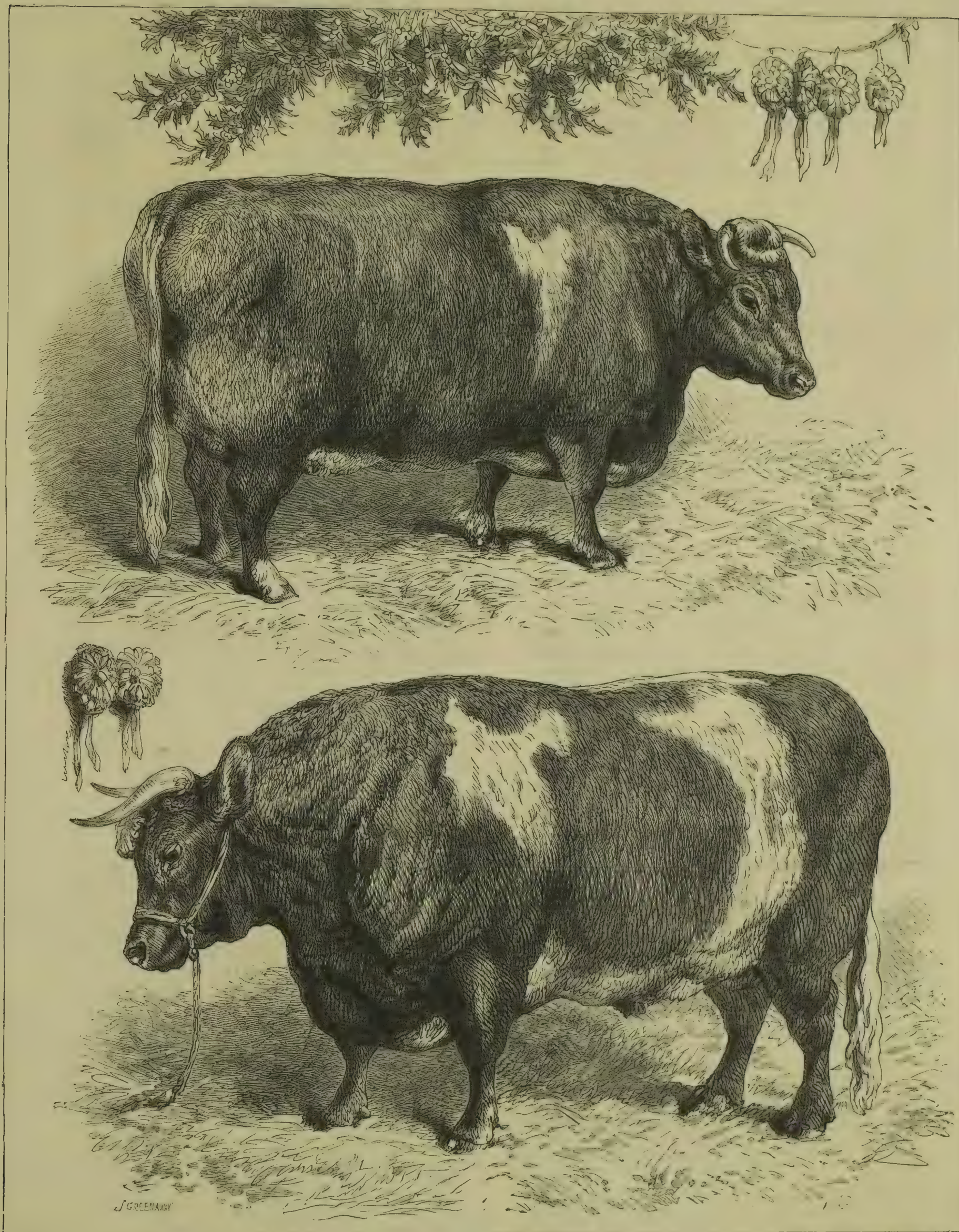
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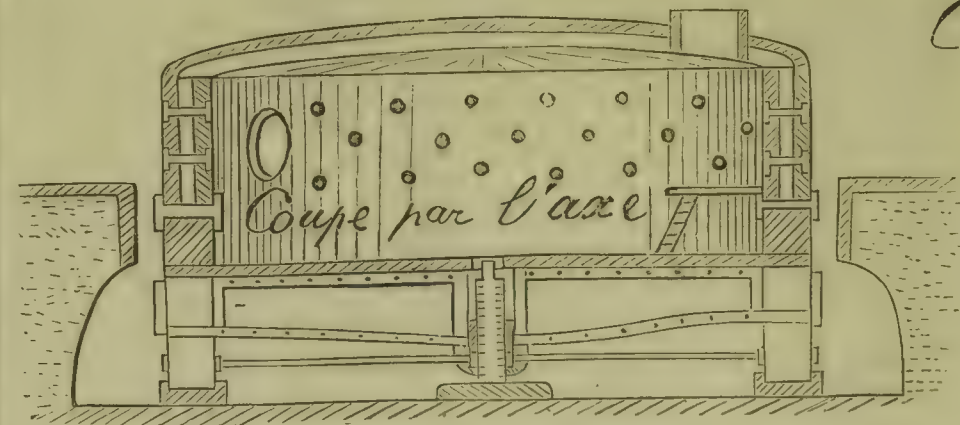
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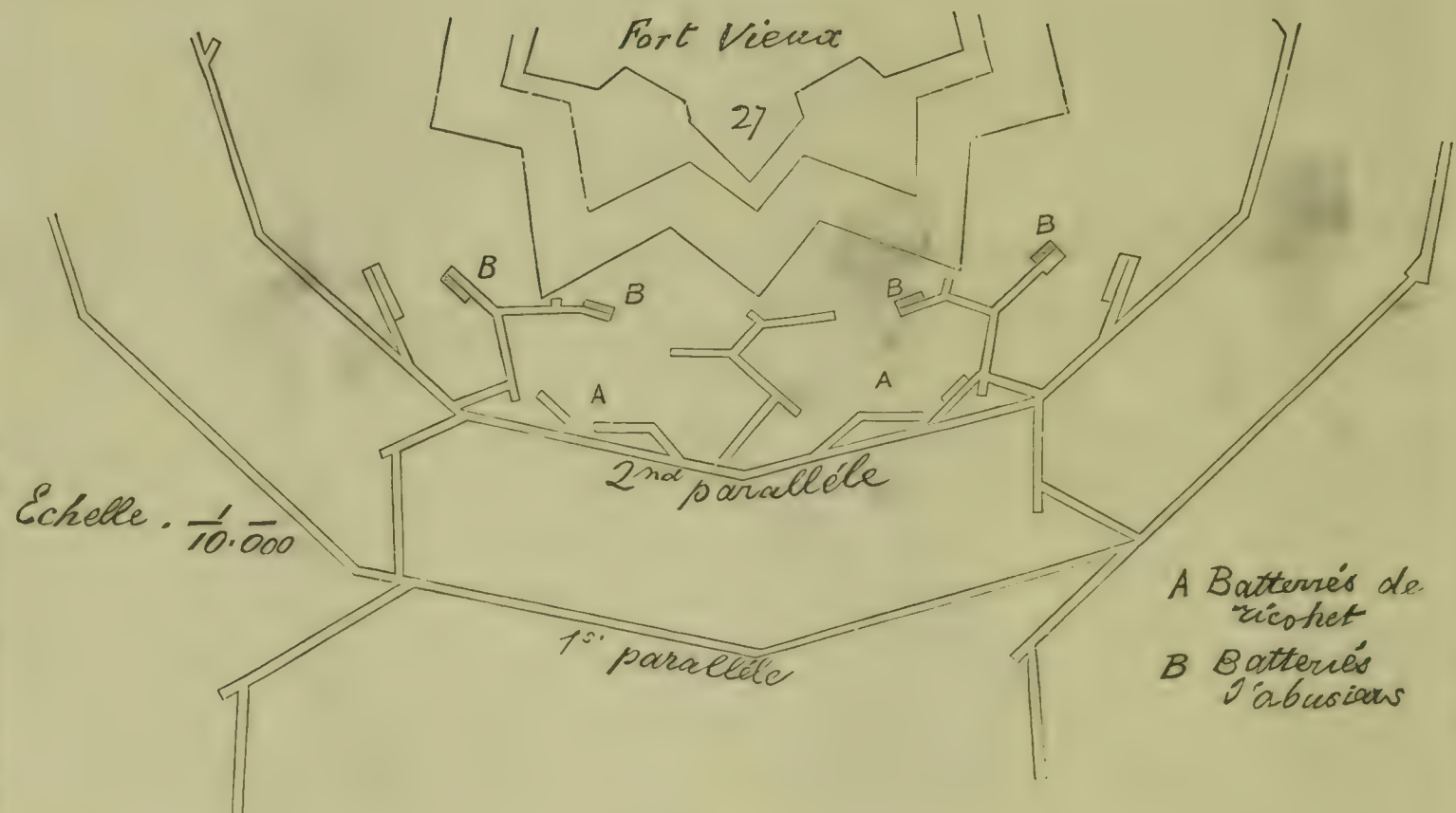


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ILLUSTRATED BOOKS.

The eminent landscape artist, Mr. Birket Foster, publishes at his residence, The Hill, Witley, Surrey, a handsome volume entitled *Brittany: A Series of Thirty-five Sketches*, which is, as might be expected from his hand, a production of sterling excellence. The drawings, which he made on prepared paper, were transferred to stone by Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald, using a peculiar and delicate process, so that the lithographic impressions render Mr. Birket Foster's work precisely as he did it. He was accompanied, in a ramble through Brittany, by Captain C. G. Nelson, R.N., and Mr. Robert Dudley, to whom this publication is dedicated. Most of the subjects consist of quaint buildings and groups of figures, in their characteristic attire, such as may be seen in the picturesque old towns of that country. Morlaix, Quimper, Vitre, Dinan, and St. Malo contribute many of these interesting pieces of provincial costume and street scenery, or bits of antiquity like our well-known "Leaves from a Sketch-Book." The masterly drawing will be appreciated by all competent judges. The finest thick paper has been used for this volume, and the lithographs have all the effect of fine pencil or chalk drawings. Each of these is accompanied by a few lines of description on the opposite page.

One of the most important works of illustrated travel and topography is *Switzerland: Its Mountains and Valleys*, a superb volume, which is published by Messrs. Bickers and Son, of Leicester-square. The engravings on wood, designed by a dozen or twenty of the best German artists, and engraved by Mr. A. Closs, number above four hundred, and are of remarkably fine quality. The descriptive text is written by Herr Woldemar Raden, in a graphic, vigorous, animated style, the force of which has not been lost in this English translation. The volume is beautifully got up in printing, paper, and binding; and it forms an admirable memorial of the sublime Alpine scenery and attractive by-ways, the mountains, glaciers, rivers, and lakes, the historic old towns and romantic Swiss villages or hamlets, with their rustic population in their most engaging aspects of home life. Switzerland, indeed, is a joy for ever to the nations whose lot is cast in tamer regions of the European world.

But Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, in the new volume of their great work entitled *Picturesque Europe*, after treating in their first of the landscape beauties of the British Isles, present a most inviting variety of scenes from the favourite Continental haunts of our tourists. These are found in Normandy and Brittany, the Rhine, the Alps, the Cornice, the North Italian Lakes, Venice, Rome, and the Pyrenees, with the North of Spain and Castile. The descriptive chapters are written by the Rev. T. G. Bonney, Mr. R. J. King, Mr. Oscar Browning, Mr. Godfrey Turner, Mr. T. W. Hinchliff, and Mr. A. Griffiths. The artists employed to design the steel engravings, which are very finely executed, are Messrs. Birket Foster, Harry Fenn, Louis Haghe, T. L. Rowbotham, S. H. Hodson, L. J. Wood, and Kilburne, besides which there is an immense number of fine wood engravings, drawn by Messrs. Fenn and Rowbotham, Macquoid, R. P. Leitch, P. Skelton, Boot, and others. Upon the whole, it may be said that this volume is superior to any of its class that has yet been produced in England. Mr. Birket Foster's views of Orta, and Mr. H. Fenn's of San Giulio, on the Lake of Orta, the former engraved on steel by Mr. J. J. Crew, the latter on wood, are excellent specimens of their respective kinds. Mr. Boot's grand old oaks in the forest of Fontainebleau, and that other sylvan nook, half filled with luxuriant fern, which he has drawn for a headpiece to the chapter, are wonderfully true to nature. They might be studied with advantage as examples of real vegetable growth. We would refer also to the "Hospenthal," among the steel engravings, and to the "Hospice of St. Bernard," which are most effectively and truthfully delineated. The views of Rome are comparatively insignificant, but there is an ample feast of first-rate landscape and architectural illustration to please the educated eye, and sufficient good reading for the delightful instruction of an intelligent mind.

The powerful imaginative genius of Gustave Doré was never exerted more agreeably than in designing his illustrations to Alfred Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." This noble series of drawings has long been familiar to lovers of poetry and art. *The Doré Gift-Book*, this year published by Messrs. E. Moxon, Son, and Co., Salisbury-square, contains them all, thirty-five in number, with a special frontispiece in which the portrait of Tennyson is surrounded by figures of the persons whose adventures find place in his romantic narratives. The engravings on steel are beautifully executed by Messrs. J. Sandler, C. H. Jeens, W. Holl, T. O. Barlow, E. P. Brandard, J. Godfrey, A. Willmore, G. C. Finden, W. Ridgway, J. H. Baker, H. Robinson, W. H. Mote, J. Stephenson, and Greatbach, at a cost of nearly £6000, the publishers tell us; and this work is a fitting pictorial shrine for the Poet Laureate's most graceful and dignified conceptions, in which the charming old fables of British chivalry are reproduced with the more refined sentiment of modern domestic life. The introductory essay is well worth reading.

A tenth yearly volume of the droll, but generally truthful, portraits of distinguished men of the day, weekly issued in the paper called *Vanity Fair*, has now made its appearance. It comprises fifty or sixty personages of greater or less note, the most important being the Prince of Wales, Lord Beaconsfield, Pope Leo XIII., and King Humbert of Italy. Their likenesses, drawn by "Ape" and "Spy," with three exceptions, will be recognised by those who are accustomed to see the men walking in Pall-mall or lounging at the clubs; but some of them are made cruelly ugly, and are dressed in such costumes as have not been worn in this generation. The short biographical notices, by "Jehu Junior," have an affected air of knowing smartness, which proves that *Vanity Fair* is not, like Thackeray's *Pall Mall Gazette*, "written by gentlemen for gentlemen." This writer is often grossly impertinent; but his malicious insults are rather less offensive than his patronising commendations.

It was in 1786, under the title of "Gulliver Revived; or, the Vice of Lying Exposed," that an English version of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* was first published. The original of these fantastically boastful stories is stated by German scholars to be the old "Travels of the Finken-Ritter," composed in the sixteenth century; but a learned refugee from that country, Rudolf Raspe of Cassel, was the compiler of the narrative in its present form. The well-known German poet Bürger, in 1787, produced an edition with considerable improvements. These have been followed, to some extent, in the very complete and acceptable edition, with eight coloured illustrations, designed by A. Bichard, and rendered by the chromolithographic process, which Messrs. F. Warne and Co. have provided for the Christmas entertainment of juvenile readers. Boys of a lively temperament and quick fancy will be delighted with the narrative and the pictures, as the boys of our boyhood's time were pleased with the narrative by itself, there being no such pictures then.

A charming Christmas gift for a little girl is the pretty

box containing ten light volumes of *Grimm's Fairy Library*, published by Messrs. G. Routledge and Sons. Each volume has a coloured frontispiece and a good many small woodcuts, by E. H. Wehnert. The merits of this popular collection of German fairy tales, for which children are indebted to the Brothers Grimm, have been well appreciated by two past generations. Their spell is not yet broken; and this square case of amusing little books will keep many a young reader happy for hours together, and do no harm to the mind.

The art of the wood-engraver has been agreeably employed in *Nature Pictures*, consisting of thirty original illustrations of English rural scenery, drawn by Mr. J. H. Dell, and engraved by Mr. R. Paterson (publisher, F. Warne and Co.). Each picture is accompanied by two or three appropriate extracts from some of our favourite poets. It is a volume that will suit the taste of those quiet-loving minds to whom we referred last week, in noticing the illustrated edition of "Our Village."

Mr. Alfred Rimmer, whose volume entitled "Ancient Streets and Homesteads" gave us so much pleasure a year or two ago, has again used his skilful pen and pencil, in the same manner, to illustrate the topographical interest of a limited region. *Pleasant Spots Around Oxford* (Cassell, Petter, and Galpin) will gratify all those who care for what is truly English, such being the genuine characteristics of the midland country watered by the Isis, the Cherwell, and the Thame, which many of the University men, and perhaps many others, have frequently traversed in leisurely riverside rambles. The town and colleges of Oxford, except St. John's and Magdalen, New College and Merton, do not here occupy Mr. Rimmer's attention; but he leads us out, by Illey Lock and Sandford Mill, to Abingdon, to Nuneham and Stanton Harcourt, to Dorchester and Radley; or up the river to Godstow and Woodstock, Blenheim Palace, and those "pleasant, old-fashioned" country towns, Bicester and Witney, of which we seldom get news in these days. These localities present quite enough that deserves notice to fulfil the promise of his titlepage.

A new edition of *Dodd's Beauties of Shakespeare* illustrated by Sir John Gilbert, R.A., is a publication the qualities of which are not now in need of being set forth by any particular commendation. Nor is it requisite to say much in favour of the *Poetical Works of Robert Burns*, edited, with an introductory biography and notes, by Mr. Charles Kent, and furnished with illustrations: this volume is neatly got up, and published by Routledge. The reprints of sterling works of our national literature will long continue to form part of the business that comes to hand at this season. Messrs. Routledge also supply an edition of St. Pierre's well-known sentimental romance, *Paul and Virginia*, which has quite as many English as French readers, and which is here illustrated by a large number of engravings. Their *Picture Natural History*, by the Rev. J. G. Wood, is a work of the most instructive character, and the author's capacity has been abundantly proved. The same enterprising firm also present us with a set of beautiful illustrations of Longfellow's mystic ballad, *Excelsior*! They represent the successive incidents of the aspiring hero's Alpine ascent, with the Convent of Mount St. Bernard; the designs are by several American artists, and engraved by Mr. A. V. S. Anthony. Uniform with the "Excelsior" is a sweet little poem called *Baby May*, by Mr. T. B. Aldrich, with its touching little pictures and bursts of song, which should be a comfort to all who have loved and lost, or who fear they may yet lose, such another nursery darling.

Our clever and amusing family conjuror, Professor Hoffmann, has again been at work, for Messrs. Routledge and their multitude of customers, and has artfully concocted a new book of *Drawing-Room Amusements*, or what may be called *Evening Party Entertainments*, of which he is the greatest literary expositor and tutor. Feats of seeming magic, card and coin tricks, here find their proper place; but the volume is chiefly devoted to instructions for playing a great variety of sociable games; those which he calls "games of action," such as blind-man's buff, hide-and-seek, or hunt the slipper; games of mental exertion, like "cross questions and crooked answers," or "what is my thought like?" forfeits, tableaux vivants, acted charades, riddles, and other contrivances for making harmless fun. It is a most useful book for young people who are now looking forward to the Christmas parties which we hope they will heartily enjoy.

The Right Hon. E. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P., late an Under-Secretary of State, is an indefatigable author of fresh stories for the diversion of boys and girls, and has not failed again to make his annual appearance in the juvenile book market, under the auspices of Routledge and Son. *Uncle Joe's Stories*, with six illustrations by Ernest Griset, comprise Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen's latest inventions in the interesting region of marvellous adventure; and Uncle Joe himself is a man of wonderful experiences among North American Indians, able to do more than hold a candle to Captain Mayne Reid. "Zac's Bride" is a fascinating little romance; and so is "Ophelia;" while "The Crones of Merham" is a regular stiff old-fashioned English witch story, the scene being laid in Kent, near the right hon. gentleman's country seat at Smeeth, not far from Ashford. His rustic neighbours had better look out.

The sixth and concluding volume of *Old and New London*, published by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, should ere this have obtained from us the due acknowledgment, but that time and space have been much encroached upon by recent pressing affairs. It will be remembered that this important work of metropolitan topography and local history was commenced under the editorship of the late Mr. G. W. Thornbury, whose task has been completed by Mr. Edward Walford. The last-named gentleman, an equally competent editor, took it up with the third volume, which was devoted, and the fourth as well, to "the western suburbs," including Westminster. The fifth volume shifted its ground to the northern suburbs of London; and now we have the southern—namely, the Borough of Southwark, Bermondsey, and Rotherhithe, with Deptford, Greenwich, Blackheath, Lee, Lewisham, Charlton, and Eltham, in one direction; Newington, Walworth, Camberwell, Peckham, and Dulwich in another; Kennington and Stockwell, Brixton and Clapham, Sydenham, Norwood, and Streatham along their respective lines of road; again, nearer the centre, St. George's-fields, Blackfriars-road, Bethlehem, Lambeth, and Vauxhall; and, farther to the south-west, Wandsworth and Putney, returning by Fulham, Hammersmith, and Chiswick, thus presenting a wide panoramic view of the notable sites and buildings, with their diverse associations of persons and events in successive ages, all round the south portion of this vast metropolis. We hope to find leisure for an attentive examination of the work; and we expect occasionally to seek the information which it seems well calculated to afford, as a book of reference, freely testifying our obligations to the researches of its able editor. The illustrations, of which there is a great abundance, both invite and assist the reading of its text.

This is a suitable occasion for noticing the yearly volumes of several valuable publications by Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin. *Science for All* is edited by Dr. Robert Brown, who has also edited, for that firm, an interesting geographical

miscellany, *Countries of the World*, with a variety of illustrative engravings. The popular scientific essays, composing the first-named publication, are original contributions from men of high special attainments, such as Professors Alleyne Nicholson, P. Martin Duncan, and A. Leith Adams, Mr. R. A. Proctor, Dr. R. J. Mann, and Dr. Andrew Wilson. They treat of physics, astronomy, geology, chemistry, vegetable and animal physiology, and other branches of the knowledge of nature, in a style which presents not much difficulty to an ordinary thoughtful reader. *Cassell's Natural History*, edited by Professor P. Martin Duncan, with the assistance of Dr. J. Muir and Mr. W. S. Dallas, likewise appears from an inspection of its first volume to be a work of substantial merit, as an introduction to the study of zoology. The newly-completed volume of Professor Henry Morley's *Library of English Literature*, compiled for the same publishers, consists of a series of critical and historical notices, with extracted passages of *English Plays*, from the oldest "mystery plays" of the Middle Ages, down to Mr. Tennyson's "Harold" and "Queen Mary." Even though we had never a Shakespeare, this is a splendid array of the poetical and dramatic creations of genius in our national literature, and it is well to have them so brought under review. *The Magazine of Art*, mainly occupied with instructive commentary upon works of true excellence in painting, sculpture, and the most important decorative arts, will be acceptable to many who desire guidance upon these subjects of discriminating taste. It is adorned with a sufficient number of serviceable illustrations.

A treatise on *Art-Embroidery*, by M. S. Lockwood and E. Glaister, is published by Messrs. Marcus Ward and Co. M. de Laborde claims for the ancient art of embroidery the supremacy over painting itself in the first centuries of our era; and recognises the serious rivalry maintained by it to the close of the fifteenth century. "I know of no greater service," he adds, "that could be rendered to the arts than to write a history of embroidery; it would be not so much a complement as the introduction to, and the necessary accompaniment of, a genuine history of painting." But there is little to indicate any such importance in the subject in the book before us. And to turn from M. Jacquemart's chapter on "Embroidery" to these pages is a descent indeed. It is true that this nicely got-up quarto claims only to be a "Treatise on the Revived Practice of Decorative Needlework;" yet with a Royal School of Art-Needlework recently established the public might reasonably have expected something more important. Nor, when we reflect upon what the famous English church embroidery, "Opus Anglicanum," must have been, or upon what church embroidery and lace were in later centuries in Italy and elsewhere, are we prepared to find these most important branches of art-needlework slurred over and dismissed with a reference to "more exhaustive treatises." However, taken simply for what it is—to wit, scarcely a "treatise," but an introduction to the mysteries of crewel, tent, satin, chain, herring-bone, and other stitches or points; appliqué, French-knot, and so forth, with hints on materials, methods, design, and colour—the book will be useful to beginners; and it is, furthermore, written with clearness and taste. Nevertheless, there are some points to which we should take exception. For example, the statement—which, however, is afterwards qualified—that the colours chosen must not be in contrast, but in harmony, is contradicted by much of the practice of the great schools of decoration. The principle that all colours should be either brighter or darker than the ground would sacrifice the charm of mystery, and violate the principle in painting of "finding and losing." "Colours from vegetable dyes" should not be preferred on account of their durability; on the contrary, they are nearly all fugitive; it is the colours or pigments from natural earths that are durable. The illustrative designs, by Mr. Thomas Crane, printed in colours, have only the merit of unpretentiousness.

The Holbein Society's last publication (in continuation of its series of facsimile reprints) consists of a portion of the first edition of Caxton's *Golden Legend*, reproduced from an incomplete copy in the Manchester Free Library; together with facsimiles of several pages of the edition of the Dutch version, or "Passionael," printed at Antwerp by Heinrich Eckert van Homberch in 1505. The woodcut illustrations to Caxton's edition are interesting as probably by an English hand, though bearing, as will be seen, a close resemblance to contemporary Dutch illustrations. The woodcut of the Assembly of the Saints, which serves as frontispiece to the work, is the largest that Caxton is known to have used. Generally, the cuts are superior to those of the "Parvus Chato" and "The Mirrour of the World;" those, however, as Caxton's first attempts at book-illustration by means of wood-engraving, must ever be regarded with more peculiar interest. The reprint is edited and accompanied by a very useful introduction from the pen of the Society's editor, Mr. Alfred Aspland. The whole history of the "Legenda Aurea" is given, from its compilation by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, late in the thirteenth century, down to the time of Caxton. There is also a narration of the commencement, two centuries subsequently, by Bollandus, the Belgian Jesuit, under the title "Acta Sanctorum," of a systematic hagiology, or history of the twenty thousand acknowledged saints in their order in the calendar—a scheme which has been advanced from time to time, and which is said to be still prosecuted by the Belgian Jesuits. Sixty volumes have been required to reach the date of Oct. 28; and it is computed that it will require at least a century longer to reach the last day of December. Caxton's introduction into the Golden Legend of a large portion of the Bible (including the whole of the Pentateuch and a great part of the Gospels), although unavowed by him, on account of his fear of the Inquisition, and although accompanied by much priestly gloss, is thought by Mr. Henry Stevens to have materially aided in preparing the way for the Reformation, by creating a demand among the people for the Scriptures in a purer form.

Mr. W. H. Lascelles, of Bunhill-row, has issued a series of twenty-eight *Sketches for Cottages and Other Buildings*, from sketches and notes by Mr. Norman Shaw, R.A., which may be warmly recommended to country builders. The sketches are designed to be carried out in Mr. Lascelles' "Patent Cement Slab System," which offers several advantages besides its cheapness. The sketches comprise a "But and Ben," or two-roomed Scotch cottage, various other cottages with increased accommodation, an entrance lodge, a shooting-box or bungalow, villa and seaside residences, a small mission-church and school-chapel, workmen's village hall and club, billiard and smoking room, boat-house, stable, cottage hospital, almshouses, and shops for village street. The architect's sense of the picturesque, and his affection for olden precedents, are conspicuous in these designs. We can only complain that his predilections occasionally (as in the low-browed rooms of some of these sketches) lead him to forget the modern requirements of comfort and hygiene.

There has been very severe weather in Scotland, the snow in some parts having been three feet in depth, and railway traffic having been much impeded.

MUSIC.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The season is to close this (Saturday) evening. "Oberon" was given on Thursday week for the second time since its revival (on the previous Saturday), and was announced again for Wednesday morning and for the closing night. During the past week Signor Bonetti appeared as Giorgio Germont, in "La Traviata," and was well received. Last Wednesday evening was devoted to the benefit of Mdle. Marimon; Thursday to that of Madame Trebelli; and Friday (yesterday) to that of Madame Pappenheim.

The series of performances has been very successful, the public having largely appreciated the advantages of lower prices, earlier hours, and freedom from the usual restrictions as to evening dress. The reproduction of Bizet's "Carmen," with Madame Trebelli's first assumption of the principal character; the revival of Weber's "Oberon," after an interval of eight years; and the successful debut of Mdle. Ambre, have given a special interest to Mr. Mapleson's winter season. A word is due to Signor Li Calsi for his unwearied fulfilment of the duties of conductor, an onerous office, with nightly performances and occasional matinées in addition.

MADAME VIARD-LOUIS'S CONCERTS.

The second of the new series of these excellent concerts at St. James's Hall took place on Tuesday evening, when the selection began with a fine performance of Mendelssohn's overture to "Ruy Blas," which was followed by one of the novelties of the evening, a characteristic and effective "Rondo Scherzoso" for orchestra, entitled "The Brooklet," composed by F. Conder (Mendelssohn's scholar).

A prominent feature in the programme was the late Herman Goetz's orchestral symphony in F major. This is the production of the composer of the opera "The Taming of the Shrew," recently brought out at Drury-Lane Theatre, and noticed by us. The symphony consists of four divisions—"Allegro Moderato," "Intermezzo" (allegretto), "Adagio ma non troppo lento," and Finale ("Allegro con fuoco"). The symphony is intended to be illustrative of a motto from Schiller—"In des Herzens heilig stille Räume musst du fliehen aus des Lebens Drang!" There is much ingenious writing in each of the movements, the instrumentation being throughout very skilful. The portions that pleased most were the "Intermezzo" and the "Adagio," particularly the latter, which is full of beauty. We shall probably have an opportunity of speaking further of the work on a future hearing.

The remainder of the orchestral selection at Tuesday's concert consisted of Boccherini's "Minuet," for strings (encored), the charming ballet music from Cherubini's last opera, "Ali Baba," and the imposing March from Berlioz's "Les Troyens."

Madame Viard-Louis played Mozart's concerto in D minor (with elaborate new Cadenza, composed by Dr. G. A. Macfarren), and was much applauded after her performance. In consequence of a recent accident, the lady was unable to play a second time, as announced, and was replaced by Miss Bessie Richards, who gave Chopin's "Scherzo" in B flat minor with fine style and execution.

Another apology and substitution were made, on account of the illness of Madame Pappenheim, instead of whom Miss Merivale appeared, and sang, with much effect, Gounod's aria "Jerusalem," and "Vado ben spesso," by Salvatore Rosa, both of which were well accompanied by Mr. H. Leopold.

The orchestral playing in each piece was of the same special excellence as heretofore; Mr. H. Weist-Hill having again conducted with rare ability.

At this week's Monday Popular Concert (the last evening performance of the year) Mdle. Janotha was again the pianist, as on the preceding Monday, the quartet party having also been as before. The vocalist in the former instance was Miss de Fonblanque; on the latter occasion, Miss Clara Merivale; Mr. Zerbin having then replaced Sir J. Benedict as conductor. The last afternoon concert of the year takes place this day (Saturday). The evening concerts will be resumed on Jan. 6; the afternoon performances on the following Saturday.

The last concert of the Crystal Palace for the present year took place on Saturday last, when the programme derived special importance from having included Beethoven's ninth and last (the "Choral") symphony—that gigantic work which includes, as its final portion, a setting of Schiller's "Ode to Joy." The three great orchestral divisions preceding this were finely played on Saturday, and the vocal portion was generally well rendered, considering its extreme difficulty. Miss Emma Thursby, Mdle. Redeker, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. Santley having been the solo vocalists, the choral part having been sung by the Crystal Palace choir. The symphony was preceded by Sir J. Benedict's effective overture to Heinrich von Kleist's drama, "Das Kathchen von Heilbronn;" the dance of nymphs and reapers from Mr. A. Sullivan's "Tempest" music; and vocal solos contributed by Miss Thursby, Mdle. Redeker, and Mr. Santley. Handel's Dead March in "Saul" was played before the concert in respect to the memory of the late Princess Alice. The Saturday afternoon performances will be resumed on Feb. 8.

Rossini's "Moses in Egypt," an English adaptation of his Biblical opera, "Mosé in Egitto," was given by the Sacred Harmonic Society yesterday (Friday) week, for the second time. Of the genius and beauty of the music (bright and melodious rather than religious in style) we spoke in reference to its first production in oratorio form by the Society in May last, when six of the principal solo vocalists were the same as in last week's performance; these being Madame L. Sherrington, Miss Julia Elton, Mdle. Enequist, Mr. E. Lloyd, Mr. Cummings, and Mr. Bridson; Mr. B. Lane having replaced Mr. W. Wells in some of the concerted music. A special feature on this occasion was the fine singing of Mr. Santley, for the first time, in the music belonging to the character of Moses; another speciality having been Mr. Lloyd's excellent delivery—as on the previous occasion—of the music of Amenophis. As before, many of the pieces, concerted and solo, produced a marked impression; and the performance proved so attractive that it is proposed to repeat it on some morning in January.

Yesterday (Friday) evening the Sacred Harmonic Society's forty-seventh annual performance of "The Messiah" took place at Exeter Hall, the solo singers named having been Madame Blanche Cole, Miss Enriquez, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. Lewis Thomas.—The same oratorio is to be given by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society on Thursday next.

Madame Sainton Dolby gave a concert at Steinway Hall on Tuesday, at which the vocal music was performed by pupils studying in her Vocal Academy.

The last of Mr. John Boosey's London Ballad Concerts for the present year took place on Wednesday, when attractions of the usual popular and varied nature were provided.

Mr. W. Carter's concert at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday evening consisted of a selection of airs and choruses from oratorios and other sacred pieces; Mesdames Edith Wynne and Antoinette Sterling and Mr. Vernon Rigby having been among the solo singers announced.

THEATRES.

In preparation for the new season the Strand management have provided for their patrons a new musical extravaganza. On Saturday this was produced, under the title of "The Desperate Adventures of the Baby; or, A Wandering Heir," by Messrs. C. H. Ross and A. G. Freer. It was preceded, however, by the farce "On and Off," and the late Bayle Bernard's comic drama, "His Last Legs." It is needless to say that these two pieces were in all respects satisfactorily performed. In the latter the cast was strengthened by the fact that Mr. W. H. Vernon sustained the eccentric part of O'Callaghan, the man of genius on his last legs; and that Mr. H. J. Turner impersonated Mr. Rivers. The new extravaganza is from the French, and no attempt is made to alter the manners or locality of the action. Indeed, one chief attraction of the adaptation consists of the Parisian sketches of scenery taken on the spot by Mr. H. P. Hall, and the Parisian costumes supplied by M. Faustin and M. and Madame Alias. The spirit of the composition is farcical, and the fun evolved simply extravagant; but it is well enough adapted to the season and the company. It is in five scenes. The first consists of the Dentist's Emporium in the Boulevard Sebastopol, where the loss of the Baby, owing to the flirtations of the nurse, throws a christening party into a terrible consternation. We are next treated with a panoramic view of the Seine, from Notre Dame to the Exhibition. Subsequent scenes represent the Champs Elysées, with the Place de la Concorde and the Arc de Triomphe; the Trocadéro during the Exhibition, and several Moorish café and panoramic views. Through these various scenes the pursuit for the recovery of the baby, and some lost love-letters written by a young Viscount to a romantic widow, is continued, until both the baby and the correspondence are found and restored to their owners. Of the performers, the prominent rôle is assigned to M. Marius, who, as the Rajar Real Jam, represents an exaggerated Othello; and he is ably supported by Miss Violet Cameron, as the Comtesse de la Houppie, both as an actress and a vocalist—showing herself, in fact, a refined artist in both. The delinquent nurse, Dodinette, is effectively sustained by Miss Lottie Venne. Throughout, the prevailing drollery is promoted by the best efforts of the actors, and will doubtless be appreciated by the public.

A trifling vaudeville by Frank Desprez and Alfred Cellier, called "After All," has been produced at the Opéra Comique. The theatre will be closed after the 24th inst. for repairs, and not reopened until Feb. 1, 1879.

Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's entertainment has received an addition fitted for the Christmas season. Mr. Alfred Law is the author of a new play entitled "Enchantment," which is likely to find acceptance with holiday seekers. It is qualified as a musical fairy tale, and is well suited for a drawing-room entertainment. The fable of Circe is here in spirit utilised and modernised for the gratification of juvenile fancy; and there can be no doubt that at this season the little drama of "Enchantment" will meet with popular support.

PANTOMIMES.

Mr. E. L. Blanchard will supply the pantomime for DRURY LANE, under the title of "Cinderella; or, Harlequin and the Fairy Slipper." There will, as usual, be a double harlequinade, supported by the Lauri family and others. COVENT GARDEN, under the management of Messrs. Gatti, takes for its subject "Jack and the Bean-stalk." The harlequinade will be supported by Messrs. Payne, Vokes, and others. At the Gaiety the Princess's pantomime of 1859, rewritten by Mr. H. J. Byron, will be produced, called "Jack the Giant-Killer." A novel ballet, with peculiar effects, will be introduced, in which Miss Zenea will sustain the leading rôle. At the GLOBE morning performances of a juvenile opera and a series of pantomimic ballets will be given, supported by eight prime ballerine and six mimi—ages ranging from eight to fifteen. At the STANDARD the pantomime of "Robin Hood and his Merry Men" will be performed, including the spectacles of the Trysting Tree, Sherwood Forest, a ballet of foresters and their maidens, a representation of the Isle of Cyprus, a pageant, illustrating the conquest of Cyprus by Richard Cœur de Lion, in 1195; and the marriage of Richard and Queen Berengaria. The piece at the ALHAMBRA represents "The Goose with the Golden Eggs," and is produced to-day. At the AQUARIUM the pantomime is entitled "Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp," written by the Brothers Grinn. At the SURREY Mr. Mackay has provided "The House that Jack Built;" at SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE Mr. H. Spry supplies the familiar story of "Cinderella;" and at the VICTORIA Mr. Frank Hall presents us with "Tom Tiddler; or, Harlequin Jack in the Box who Deals Nasty Knocks, and Doubleheaded Daddy the Demon." The GRECIAN produces the twenty-second joint production of Messrs. George Conquest and H. Spry, called "Harlequin Hokee-Pokee, the Fiend of the Fungus Forest; or, The Six Links of the Devil's Chain." Mr. Conquest's impersonation of a Chinese is expected to be especially good. Mr. F. Marchant supplies the BRITANNIA with "The Magic Mule; or, The Ass's Skin, the Princess to Win." The PARK theatre, now under the management of the Messrs. Douglass, will open on Boxing Night with "The Forty Thieves," "Little Red Riding Hood" will be produced at the PAVILION; and "Sindbad the Sailor" at the ALBION, Poplar. The ELEPHANT AND CASTLE theatre opens on Boxing Night with "The Babes in the Wood." At the HOLBORN AMPHITHEATRE Mr. Hamilton's "Excursion Across the Continent" will be continued. The equestrian novelty at HENGLER'S CIRQUE is entitled "Bonnie Prince Charley;" and at the MARLYBONE we have "Jack the Giant-Killer; or, Harlequin Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary."

The pantomime at the ALEXANDRA PALACE, written by G. R. O'Halloran, is "Dick Whittington," the parts of the hero and his sweetheart being played by Miss Lillian Cavalier and Miss Susie Vaughan. Madame San Martino-Campobello and Mr. Edmund Rosenthal (both eminent on the opera stage) take leading parts in the opening scenes. The famous Girards, Pongo redivivus, and the Rowella troupe are especially engaged. The scenery is painted by W. Emden. After the transformation-scene, entitled "A Christmas Card," the next scene in importance is of a shipwreck, which is so constructed that the vessel with all hands will sink bodily beneath the waves. The ballets are arranged by Mr. John Lauri; the principal danseuse is Mdle. Lana. Besides the pantomime there will be each day the "Little Folks" Doll Show, Holden's Marionettes, Wieland's Circus, Zæo, the wonderful Girl Gymnast, military band, organ, &c. At the CRYSTAL PALACE "Robinson Crusoe" will be the attraction. At the AGRICULTURAL HALL the Mohawks will return, and open with a new programme. The MUSIC-HALLS promise new ballets and new programmes.

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

"Chappell's Musical Magazine" (Chappell and Co., New Bond-street). The Christmas number of this cheap serial contains nine pieces of dance music for the pianoforte in the several forms of quadrille, waltz, galop, and polka. That these are suitable to the intended purposes was a matter of course in a publication that has so long maintained a special

character in this respect (the present number being the 119th). The names of the composers who have contributed to it are Charles D'Albert, E. Waldteufel, F. Godfrey, A. G. Crowe, and H. Louis.

The Contralto Album (Boosey and Co.). This volume is one of the extensive series of "Royal Editions" published by the eminent house in Regent-street. It contains fifty choice songs for a mezzo-soprano or contralto voice (in the original keys), selected mostly from celebrated operas, each song having Italian and English words. Some of the pieces are taken from works that have long been ignored in stage performance, but yet contain airs that are worthy of preservation. Accordingly, we find in this interesting collection some charming solos from shelved operas by Handel, Bononcini, Gluck, Pacini, Winter, Mercadante, Vaccaj, and Donizetti. The volume is well edited by Mr. Josiah Pittman, and forms an interesting and valuable repertoire for vocalists of the class specified. The book is well adapted for a Christmas or New-Year's gift.

Christmas Carols, New and Old (Novello, Ewer, and Co.), is the third series of a cheap collection of pieces appropriate to the present season. The words have been selected from various sources, some traditional, others taken from poets of the past and present periods. This portion of the work has been edited by the Rev. H. R. Bramley, Dr. J. Stainer being the editor of the music, which consists of ancient melodies and some supplied by living composers. This third division of the work contains twenty-six carols.

Messrs. Novello, Ewer, and Co. have also issued—among their cheap octavo editions—the fine "Stabat Mater" of Astorga, a celebrated Sicilian composer of the seventeenth and early part of the eighteenth century. "The Stabat Mater" is one of his finest works, and has been pronounced by Hauptmann (a high authority) to be superior to Pergolesi's. The same firm has also published an effective pianoforte arrangement of M. Gounod's "Marche Solennelle," a fine orchestral piece, in which the stately solemnity of the march is charmingly contrasted by the grace of the trio.

"A Second Set of Sixty Voluntaries, arranged for the Harmonium by J. W. Elliott" (Novello, Ewer, and Co.), will be found serviceable to amateurs of that instrument.

Ashdown and Parry's fourth "Album of Dance Music." This is a publication (from the well-known firm in Hanover-square) similar in size, price, and purpose to that noticed above. The contents consists of two waltzes, three sets of quadrilles, a galop, a polka, a schottische, a polka mazurka, and a country dance. The contributors are Messrs. G. Coote, jun., Marriott, W. C. Levey, C. Godfrey, and E. M. Lott.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

St. George and St. Michael. Second Edition. By George MacDonald. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.)
Her World Against a Lie. By Florence Marryat. 3 vols. (S. Tinsley.)
Little Wide Awake. A Story-Book for Little Children. By Mrs. Sale Barker. Nearly 400 Illustrations. (Routledge and Sons.)
Chatterbox (for 1878). Edited by J. E. Clarke, M.A. (W. W. Gardner.)
The Prize for Girls and Boys, 1878. (W. W. Gardner.)
Decisive Events in History. By T. Archer. Illustrated. (Cassell and Co.)
The Green Hand. A Sea Story for Boys. By George Cupples. (Routledge.)
British Almanac and Companion for 1879. (Suttons' Hall.)
Only a Cat. By Mrs. H. B. Paul. (Routledge and Sons.)
The Magic Lantern Manual. By W. J. Chadwick. One Hundred Illustrations. (Warne and Co.)
"Grandmother, Dear!" A Book for Boys and Girls. By Mrs. Molesworth. (Macmillan and Co.)
Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe. Illustrated. (Routledge and Sons.)
Paul and Virginia. Illustrated. (Routledge and Sons.)
Drawing-Room Amusements. By Professor Hoffmann. Illustrated. (Routledge and Sons.)
Poetical Works of Robert Burns. Edited, with Introductory Biography and Notes, by Charles Kent. With Illustrations. (Routledge and Sons.)
The Welcome Hour. Illustrated Magazine. (The Book Society.)
At Anchor. A Narrative of Experiences Afloat and Ashore, during the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger, 1872 to 1876. By John James Wild, Ph.D. Illustrated. (Marcus Ward.)
Beauties of Shakespeare. By the Rev. Wm. Dodd, LL.D. (Routledge.)
Bel-Marjory. A Tale. By L. T. Meade. (Shaw and Co.)
Sunday Reading for the Young. For 1878. (W. W. Gardner.)
Miss Toosey's Mission. By the Author of "Laddie" (Mozley and Smith.)
Happy-Day Stories for the Young. By H. W. Dulcken. (Routledge.)
St. Nicholas, Scribner's Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys. Vol. 5. (Sampson Low.)
Plays for Young People, with Songs suitable for Private Theatricals. By J. Barmby. The Music by T. Rogers. (Sampson Low.)
The Fairy Land of Science. By Arabella B. Buckley. (Stanford.)
Ida Mayhew. By Mrs. Herbert Martin. (Sunday School Association, Norfolk-street, Strand.)
Dick Sands: The Boy Captain. By Jules Verne. (Sampson Low.)
Chapters on Everyday Things. (Religious Tract Society.)
Pierrot, Humbly Born, but Noble of Heart. By S. de K. (E. Marlborough.)
Bible Photographs: Stories from the Old Testament. By W. E. Littlewood. (Marcus Ward.)
My Son, Give Me Thine Heart. Sermons preached before the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. By C. J. Vaughan, D.D. (Macmillan.)
Whitaker's Almanack for 1879. (Whitaker, 12, Warwick-lane.)
The Flower of the Grassmarket. (Hodder and Stoughton.)
A Face Illumined. By the Rev. E. P. Roe. (Ward, Lock, and Co.)
The Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands. By Charles St. John. Illustrated Edition. (John Murray.)
Life of the Duke of Wellington. By Rosemond Waite. (Livingtons.)
Life and Adventures in Japan. By E. Warren Carter. (Nisbet and Co.)
Through Bible Lands: Notes of Travel in Egypt, the Desert, and Palestine. By Philip Schaff, D.D., LL.D. (Nisbet and Co.)
Life Mosaic: The Ministry of Song and Under the Surface. By Frances Ridley Havergal. Twelve Coloured Illustrations. (Nisbet and Co.)
The History of the Administration of the Right Hon. Frederick Temple, Earl of Dufferin, late Governor-General of Canada. By W. Leggo. (Lovell Printing and Publishing Company, Montreal.)
The Vanity Fair Album. By Jehu Junior. Vol. 10. ("Vanity Fair" Office.)
The Doré Gift-Book of Illustrations to Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." (E. Moxon, Son, and Co.)
The Oxford Bible for Teachers. With margin for MS. notes. (H. Frowde.)
The Day of Rest. Volume for 1878. (Strahan and Co.)
The Weekly Welcome. Volume for 1878. (Partridge and Co.)
Dress. By Mrs. Oliphant. (Macmillan and Co.)
A New Grammar of the English Language. By the Rev. G. Bartle, D.D.
Drury's Comical French Grammar. (George Rivers.)
Lost: A Tale of the English Lakes. By S. M. (Bemrose and Sons.)
Ruff's Guide to the Tour, 1878-9. Winter Edition. ("Sportsman" Office.)
Ripples and Breakers. By Mrs. G. Linneus Baner. (Kegan Paul.)
Legends of the Morrow. By T. Gordon Lake. (Chatto and Windus.)
The Byron Birthday Book. Compiled by James Burrows. (Sampson Low.)
The Little Ones' Library of Good Stories. (Evelyns, 51, Regent-street.)

From Routledge and Sons.

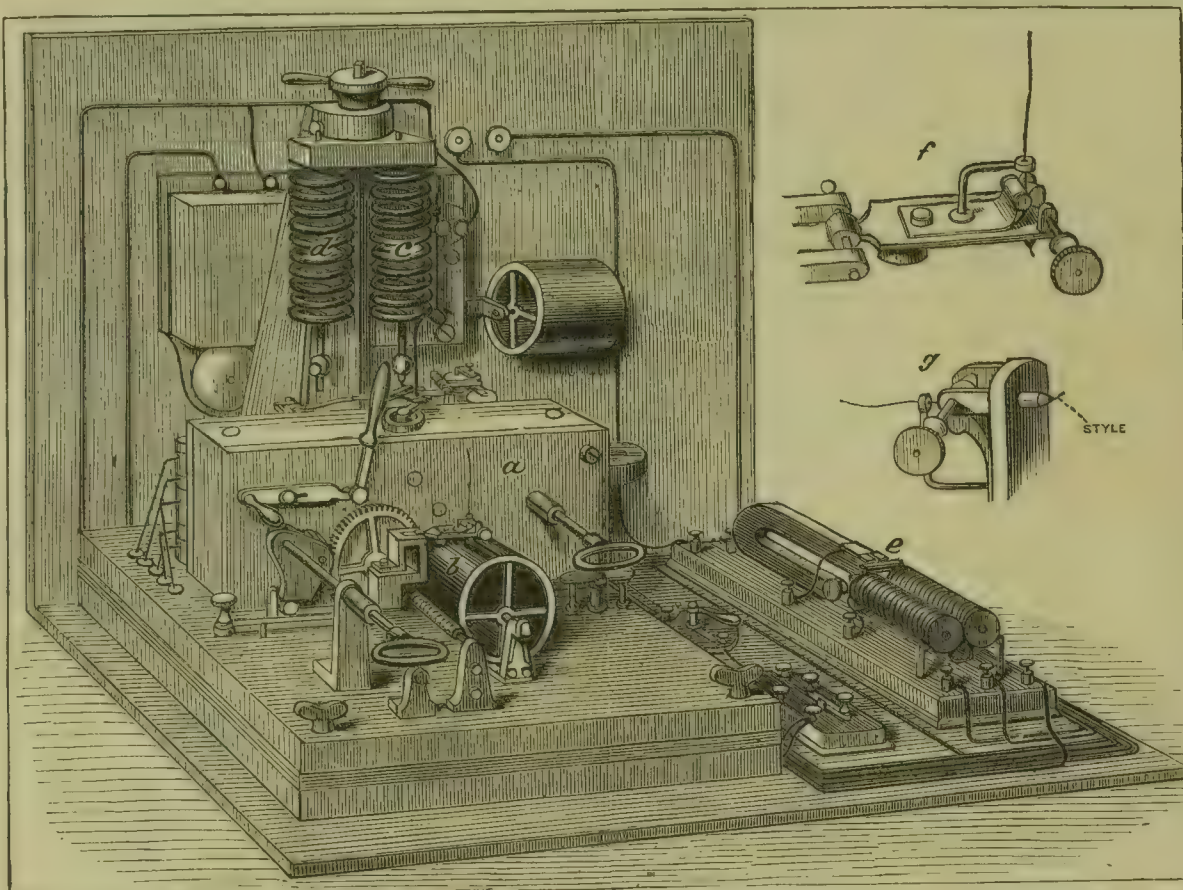
The Longfellow Birthday Book. Arranged by Cecilia Dixon.
The Grimm Fairy Library. Ten Volumes in a small Cabinet.
The Electric Light. By T. C. Hepworth. 25 Illustrations.
Baby Bell. By Thomas Bailey Aldrich. With Illustrations.
A Picture History of England—for the Use of the Young. By Dr. Dulcken.
The Large Picture Primer.
Excelsior. By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. With Illustrations.
Chimes and Rhymes for Youthful Times.
Uncle Joe's Stories. By the Right Hon. E. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P.
Mare Dolis. By "Auntie Bee."
Routledge's Picture Natural History. By the Rev. J. G. Wood, M.A., F.L.S.
A Picture-Book for Laddies and Lassies.
Golden Light. Scripture Lesson for the Young. By Dr. Dulcken. Illustrated.
Farm Ballads. By Will Carleton. Illustrated.
Children's Theatricals. Adapted Popular Fairy Tales. By J. Keith Angus.
Schnick Schnack: Trifles for the Little Ones.
Aunt Elsie's Rhymes for Little Children. Set to Music by T. Crampson.
The Seven Champions of Christendom. By W. H. G. Kingston.
English Epigrams: Selected and Arranged by W. Davenport Adams.
Longfellow's Poetical Works. Author's Copyright Edition.

From Marcus Ward and Co.

The Black Crusoe. From the French of Alfred Seguin. Illustrations.
Esther: A Story for Children. By Geraldine Butt. Illustrated.
The White Lily of the Great Sahara. By C. H. Eden.
What an Old Myth May Teach. By Leslie Keith.

AUTOGRAPHIC TELEGRAPHY.

Autographic telegraphy, or the process of transmitting messages in the actual handwriting of the sender, has occasionally during the past thirty years constituted the special study of scientific minds. So long since as 1850 Mr. F. C. Bakewell invented a copying telegraph by means of which autographic telegraphy was effected, and this was probably the first time it was effectually accomplished. In this instance the message was written by the sender with a gummy ink or varnish on metallic paper or tinfoil, and this writing was by the aid of mechanism used to actuate electric currents in such a way as to produce a record at the distant station by the chemical decomposition of a solution with which the receiving paper was damped. Both the written message and the paper were fixed around cylinders of similar form and dimensions, one being placed in the transmitting and the other in the recording instrument, and the cylinders were caused to revolve with corresponding velocities. Each time the gummy and, consequently, raised lines of the writing were crossed by a pointer under which the metallic paper was traversed in the transmitter, a mark corresponding in position was made on the prepared paper at the receiving end. It therefore followed that the sum of all the marks reproduced the writing



a is a box containing wheelwork, driven by two mainsprings, which give motion to the metallic roller *b*. The train of wheelwork is governed by the vibrating spring *c*, in the same manner as the type-printing instrument of Professor Hughes. In addition to this vibrating spring, a similar one, *d*, is fixed next to it, in the same standard, but is not in direct communication with the wheelwork. It receives its motion from the spring *c*, simply by the vibrations communicated by the latter, through the standard on which the springs are fixed. These springs are so adjusted, at each end of the wire, that their speeds are tolerably alike. The tinfoil paper for transmitting, or the prepared chemical paper for receiving, is fixed on the roller *b*. The metallic steel style in each

case moves longitudinally and slowly along the cylinder by means of a screw, to which the standard holding the style is fixed. The roller *b*, at the sending station, stops automatically at each revolution, and is restarted by the roller at the receiving station at the proper time. By this means absolute synchronism is obtained, and there can be no accumulation of error. *e* consists of permanent and electro magnets; it forms a rapid relay by the line current, and it relays a current of sufficient intensity to discolour the chemically prepared paper. *f* shows the mechanical arrangement for the adjustment of the style in the proper place on the roller. *g*, end of same, showing its under side.

THE AUTOGRAPHIC TELEGRAPH: M. D'ARINCOURT'S APPARATUS.

itself. Mr. Bakewell successfully reproduced the writing in white on a blue ground, but the process failed to become one of public utility owing to the extreme slowness with which the apparatus worked and the difficulty that was experienced in maintaining uniform and synchronous motion in the instruments. In 1856 the Abbé Caselli, in Italy, endeavoured to solve the problem of autographic telegraphy in a similar manner. His apparatus was exhibited in England, and it was used practically between Paris and Marseilles and Paris and Lyons. Plans, drawings, and autograph sketches were faithfully reproduced at distant places, but it was found that the apparatus had not only the defects of Bakewell's, but it was very costly and complicated. Two other subsequent workers in this direction were M. Meyer and M. Lenoir, who tried to accomplish the same results with ordinary ink. They, however, pursued their investigations quite independently of and unknown to each other. We have recently been afforded the opportunity of examining the latest example of this class of apparatus at the General Post Office, where it has been submitted to the authorities for trial. This is the invention of M. d'Arincourt, of Paris, and its general principles are similar to those which govern Bakewell's system. The distinguishing feature in d'Arincourt's apparatus, however, is the introduction

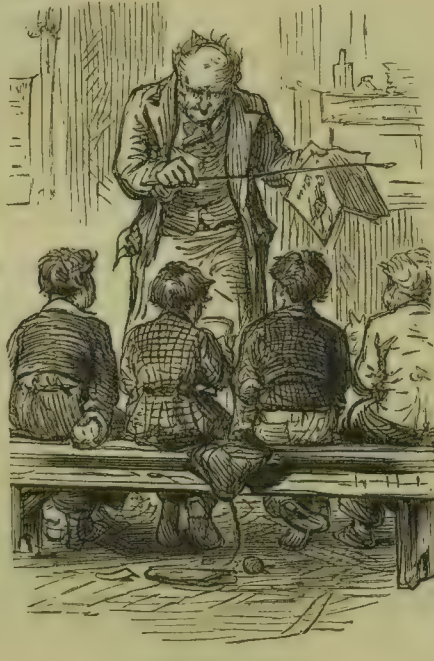
NO. I.



FIRST PART.



SECOND PART.



THIRD PART.



THE WHOLE.

NO. II.



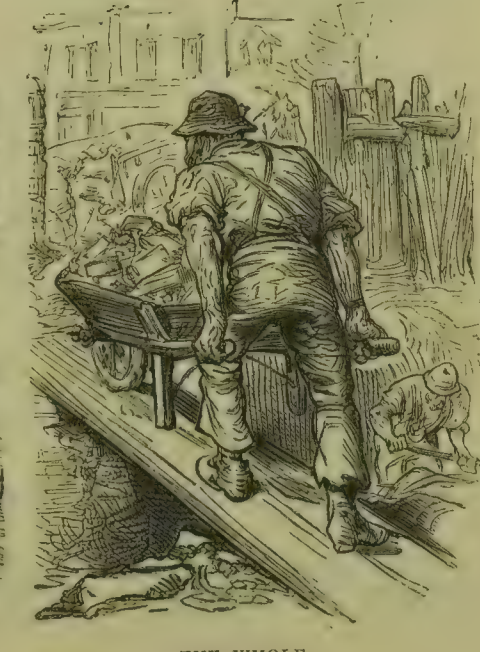
FIRST PART.



SECOND PART.



THIRD PART.



THE WHOLE.

PICTORIAL CHARADES FOR CHRISTMAS.



1. Pointer, "Faust," 3 yrs. 6m. old, Mr. G. Pilkington. 2. Pug-dog, "Tragedy," 4 yrs., Mr. H. Maule. 3. Bloodhound, "Judge," 1 yr. 8m., Mr. W. Herbert Singer. 4. Retriever, "Fred," Mr. F. Redmond.
5. Fox-terrier, "Buffet," Mr. W. J. Hyde, prize and cup. 6. St. Bernard, "Mentor," 6 yrs. 6m., Dr. J. Russell, M.D. 7. Spaniel, "Flora," Mr. Bold Robinson.

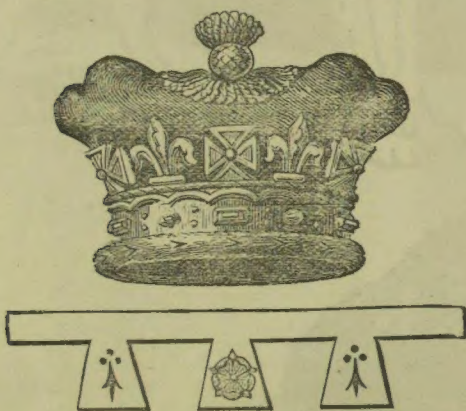
PRIZE DOGS AT THE ALEXANDRA PALACE SHOW.

of an extremely ingenious synchronous movement, by means of which the speed of travel of the cylinders is rendered uniform, both in the transmitting and the recording machine. The message to be sent, which may be either in the ordinary hand or shorthand, is written with a thick gummy ink upon a strip of metallic-faced paper about 12 inches long and 2½ in. deep, which is wrapped around the cylinder of the transmitting instrument. A strip of white paper chemically prepared and of similar dimensions is placed on the cylinder of the recording apparatus, and the instruments are placed in electrical connection and started. The raised writing, actuating the electric current, causes a reproduction of the original message in facsimile on the paper in the recording instrument, which may be hundreds of miles away from the other. Upon the occasion of our visit the two instruments, although in the same room, were practically placed 200 miles apart. The writing can be reproduced in either blue, brown, red, or black, according to the chemical preparation of the paper, but always on a white ground, and a number of copies can be taken from one original. In the same way, sketches, plans, or drawings may be faithfully transmitted; some sketches were, in fact, accurately reproduced on the occasion of our visit. Although the apparatus is perfect in its action, it still has one drawback, which was common to its predecessors—that of slowness of reproduction. The time occupied in revolving the cylinder a sufficient number of times to allow the pointer to traverse the whole surface of the paper in seven minutes, and this rate of speed is far below that required and attained in practice for commercial purposes. The Post Office authorities, to whom we are indebted for our inspection, do not, therefore, see their way to utilise M. d'Arlincourt's ingenious invention at present. It is, however, being worked in France in fortresses and for similar military purposes, for which, in some special cases, it is exceedingly well adapted.

We present an illustration of the apparatus constructed by M. d'Arlincourt, which may easily be understood by reference to the foot-notes and to the above general description. The Engravings on another page represent several writings and drawings which were actually transmitted, through the apparatus, from one instrument to the other, and which could, as we are told, have been transmitted, by the same means, a distance of two hundred miles. One of these supposed messages was supplied by a member of the Chinese Legation in Paris, who visited the exhibition of M. d'Arlincourt's invention. It consists of three perpendicular lines of Chinese handwriting. The second article consigned to the Autograph Telegraph is a little sketch of a girl selling cups of cocoa at the Paris International Exhibition. The other drawings, probably by the hand of a French military engineer, who may have come among other visitors to M. d'Arlincourt, are such as might be made to give serviceable information during a siege, of the position of the parallel lines of intrenchments, and of the siege-gun and mortar batteries engaged in the attack of the fortress. These matters are signified by the written words, with alphabetical references, which appear on the drawing. The remaining sketches afford an exterior view, and an internal transverse section, of a gun-turret erected in some land fortress, the construction of which it is desirable to explain, by a telegraphic message, to some persons at a long distance, perhaps in a foreign country. It is imagined that a spy in time of war, if not a newspaper Special Correspondent, might possibly avail himself of the Automatic Telegraph to send plans or sketches of military preparations. We should much prefer to see this ingenious contrivance applied to peaceful and innocent purposes, whenever it is made ready for practical use.

OBITUARY.

THE GRAND DUCHESS OF HESSE.



Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Hesse, Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland, died at Darmstadt on the 14th inst., deeply deplored. In the appropriate words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in proposing an address of condolence to her Majesty, "Apart from her Royal birth and exalted station, the Princess Alice had qualities which would command our admiration. Whether as the daughter, ministering by the death-bed of her father, as the sister exerting herself as the skilful nurse of her brother, or as the tender mother, who might be said to have sacrificed her life in the affectionate care of her children, or whether we recall the time when she came forward to alleviate the sufferings of the sick and wounded in her adopted country, we recognise in her that combination of warmth of heart, soundness of judgment, and practical energy, which go to make up the perfection of womanhood." The Grand Duchess, in former times our own "Princess Alice," was born April 25, 1843, the third child of her Majesty, was married at Osborne, July 1, 1862, to H.R.H. Prince Frederick William Louis of Hesse, K.G., now Grand Duke, eldest son of Prince Charles William Louis of Hesse, and grandson of Louis, Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, and had issue two sons, Ernest Louis Charles Albert, Hereditary Grand Duke, born Nov. 25, 1868, and Prince Friedrich Wilhelm Auguste Victor Leopold Ludwig, born Oct. 7, 1870, accidentally killed, May 29, 1873; and five daughters, the Princesses Victoria Alberta Elizabeth, Elizabeth Alexandrina Louise Alice, Irene Marie Louise Anna, Victoria Alice Helena Louise Beatrice, and Maria Victoria Feodore Leopoldine, the youngest, who was born May 24, 1874, was the Princess who succumbed to diphtheria on the 16th of last month.

The deaths have also been announced of—

The Rev. Henry Trail Simpson, Rector of Swindon, near Cheltenham, on the 7th inst.

Charles Robson, Esq., of 60, Cornwall-gardens, late of Luxton Law, Kelson, on the 9th inst., aged seventy-seven.

Lady Hardinge (Emily Bradford), widow of the Rev. Sir Charles Hardinge, Bart., of Boundes Park, Tunbridge Wells,

and second daughter of Kenneth Callander, Esq., of Craigforth, in the county of Stirling, on the 8th inst.

Colonel James Ramsay, youngest son of the late Hon. Andrew Ramsay, on the 7th inst., in his sixty-fifth year.

John Birt Davies, Esq., J.P., F.R.C.P., late Coroner for Birmingham, on the 11th inst., in his eightieth year.

The Rev. John Byron, M.A., third son of the late Rear-Admiral Richard Byron, C.B., on the 6th inst., at the Vicarage, Elmstone Hardwick, Gloucestershire, aged seventy-four.

Francis Whichcote, Esq., third son of the late Sir Thomas Whichcote, fifth Bart., of Aswarby, Lincolnshire, on the 7th inst., at 35, Montpelier-square, Brompton, aged eighty-five.

Major Edward Pellew Hammett Ussher, R.M.L.I., third son of the late Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Ussher, K.C.B., K.H., on the 6th inst., at Radipole, near Weymouth.

Sir William Yardley, of Hadlow Park, Tunbridge Wells, who was Puisne Judge at Bombay from 1847 to 1852 and Chief Justice from 1852 to 1858, on the 15th inst., aged sixty-eight.

Mary, Lady Watson, widow of Sir William Henry Watson, Baron of the Exchequer, who died 1860, and daughter of Anthony Hollist, Esq., of Midhurst, Sussex, on the 12th inst., at Medhurst, Sussex, in her seventy-third year.

Colonel Maximilian James Western, formerly 64th Foot, on the 12th inst., at Palace-gardens-terrace, Kensington, aged seventy. He was younger brother of Sir Thomas Burch Western, first Baronet, of Rivenhall, Essex.

Thomas Richard Pryce Wagner, J.P. and D.L. for Cardiganshire, on the 9th inst., at Manoreifed, in that county, aged eighty-three. He was only son of the late John Wagner, Esq., of Penallteifort, by Martha, his wife, daughter of F. Martin, Esq., of Cranley, Surrey.

Charles Lane, Esq., J.P. and D.L., on the 9th inst., at Badgemore, Oxfordshire, aged eighty-five. Mr. Lane was a descendant of a well-known branch of the Northamptonshire family of Lane. He married, in 1824, Emily Maria, daughter of John Thornhill, Esq., and by her, who died in 1877, leaves issue, his eldest son being the present Major-General Charles Powlett Lane, of Badgemore.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications relating to this department of the Paper should be addressed to the Editor, and have the word "Chess" written on the envelope.

G R (Buda-Pesth).—We note the contents of your letter, and shall always be glad to hear from you.

R T K (Bournemouth).—You can obtain, for perusal, any modern work upon chess upon payment of a small subscription, from Mr. Morgan, 67, Barbican, London. The works named are costly and difficult to procure.

E A R (Mansel).—Thanks for your courteous letter. The problem shall have early examination.

E P V (Cheltenham).—The notice referred to the first edition of Mr. Gossip's work. We have not heard that a second is in contemplation.

H D K (Alexandria).—There is only one English edition of Ponzi's, and that, by a blunder of the adapter, purports to be a translation of del Rio's work. It is called "The Incomparable Game of Chess," &c., by J. S. Bingham. London, 1820.

S H (Nottingham).—Both are very acceptable, and shall appear when the demands upon our space become less pressing.

M K (Reading).—"The titles, publishers, and prices of books of chess problems" would occupy more space than we have to spare for such a purpose.

J M (Wenchow).—We have not space in this column for replies to your queries, but have sent a communication to the agents named in your letter.

G R P (Exeter).—Only the pieces required for the author's solution and the prevention of others should be employed in the construction of problems. The positions received from you are not problematical.

J O B (Govan).—Incorrect in both cases. Send the problems by all means.

T G (Smithwick).—A dual mate in a problem is a defect *per se*; but a standard of theoretical perfection is impracticable in ordinary work. No. 2 is good, and, if found correct, shall soon appear.

F O N H (Liverpool).—No. 1 is marked for insertion; in No. 2 there is no mate if Black play 1. Q to 4th, pinning the K's pawn; Nos. 3 and 5 are too trivial; and No. 4 requires further examination.

W M C (Chichester).—In No. 1, after 1. B to Kt 8th, P to K 4th. White may play 2. R to Kt 4th, or 2. Kt to B 7th. No. 2 can be solved by 1. Q to Kt 2nd, &c.

H M (Leeds).—We propose to publish the game in good time.

We acknowledge, with thanks, games received from Delta, E Thorold, S Hamel, G C Haywood, and J S Thorne.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1813 received from W Groux, Tonks, W J Wilson (Clay-cross), Thorpe, Dabbahill, and T Burnstead.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1814 received from J S Hardy, and E W Hamilton, B C Tonks, A Wood, Natalie Bonnani, Neworth, Emile Frau, E Clarkson, W Groux, S Stripe, Geelong, Barrow Edges, Carlos de Lille, W J Wilson (Clay-cross), J G Finch, T. duchoch, T Burnstead, T N O, J Estlin, Bosworth, C G Ellison, Athens Chess Club (by telegram), W D Hutchings, T Guest, and R Sarsfield.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1815 received from J S H and E W H, J G Finch, Lulu, W Leeson, Emile Frau, Thorpe, H H Bulley, T Exeter, J W S (Dawlish), G R P, W S B, E Clarkson, Florence F Shubbrook, Carica, Neworth.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEMS Nos. 1815 and 1816 received from P de Page, Jare Nepveu (Utrecht), David Millar, W F Payne, Dr F St. Onno, D Arday, Frances Raymont, An Old Hand, Litz, G L Mayne, D Templeton, L S D, N Warner, J P Gillard, M Meredith, W Alston, A Tremayne, W Warren, B L Dyke, Helen Lee, R Barrett, E Elsbury, S Farrant, J P Parkinson, H Barrington, N Cadz, R Jessop, D W Bell, Americane, J Womone, W Newton, H Langford, F R Jeffrey, W Groux, J de Honsteyn, Cant, F V P, Copiapino, T Guest, Ea T Marden, E P Vuillamy, R H Brooks, G R P, R T King, G Foshooke, M Meyrick, Leonora and Leon, Mechanic, A Scot, E Worsley, L Sharswood, H Brewster, M O'Halloran, and East Marden.

CORRECT SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 1816 received from Bosworth, F Bulley, E Vener, S Western, R Turner, H Benthall, Julia Short, A L S, Painter of Shepherd's-bush, Alpha, and Fairholme.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 1815.

WHITE. BLACK.
1. K to R sq. P to B 8th (a Kt) *
2. R to R sq. Kt moves
3. Kt takes P (at K 3rd). Mate.

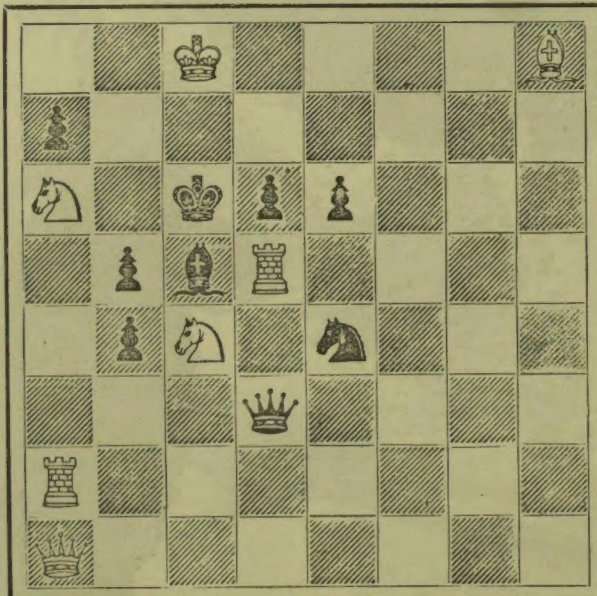
*If Black play 1. P to B 8th (a Queen), White's answer is 2. R to Q Kt 5th, &c.

NOTE.—This problem cannot be solved, as many correspondents have supposed, by either 1. R to Q Kt 5th or 1. R to Q R 5th, because Black's rejoinder is promoting the Pawn to a Kt, and playing that piece to Q 7th on the next move.

PROBLEM No. 1818.

By CHARLES A. GILBERG.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

(Owing to the demands upon our space the games are unavoidably deferred.)

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will (dated Jan. 2, 1877) of Mr. Richard Thornton West, of Streatham Hall, near Exeter, who died on Nov. 29 last, has been proved by his widow, Mrs. Sarah West, and his brothers-in-law, Richard John Bowerman, of 4, Gray's-inn-square, and Thomas Palmer Eames, of Cotley, near Chard, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £1,000,000. The testator leaves to his wife all his plate, furniture, horses, carriages, wines, pictures, &c., absolutely, with a present legacy of £4000; for her life his estate called "Streatham Hall," with all the lands belonging thereto, and £10,000 per annum, subject to reduction in the event of her marrying again, and also the additional yearly sum of £3000 for the maintenance and education of each of his children. After the decease or second marriage of his widow, the testator devises the Streatham Hall estate to his son Richard Bowerman West absolutely. To his nephew, Robert Thornton, he bequeaths a legacy of £3000; to his sister-in-law, Mrs. Elizabeth Eames, and her children, £3000; to his two executors, Richard John Bowerman and Thomas Palmer Eames, legacies of £3000 each, unless they refuse to act; to each of his god-children (eight in number) he leaves £1000; to his friends, John Browne and John S. Neall, Richard M. Jones, and Francis W. Arkcoll, £500 each; to all his domestic servants, gardeners and labourers employed on the estate, sums varying from £10 to £200. He bequeaths to the following charitable institutions—viz., the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum at Snaresbrook, the Seamen's Hospital on board the Dreadnought, the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, the Devon and Exeter Hospital, the Exeter Dispensary, the West of England Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, and the West of England Infirmary for Diseases of the Eye, the sum of £500 each. The testator leaves the residue of his landed and personal estate in trust for his child or children, as to three fourths thereof in trust to pay to him or them from and after his or their marriage the income thereof for life, and after their decease in trust for their children; and as to the remaining one fourth thereof in trust for his child or children absolutely on attaining twenty-five; but if none of his children or their issue attain twenty-five or marry the testator gives over the whole of his residuary estate to his nephews and nieces living at his wife's decease or second marriage.

The will (dated May 15, 1878) of Mr. Alfred Brooks, late of Montague Villa, No. 67, Finchley-road, who died on the 2nd ult., was proved on the 29th ult. by Mrs. Jane Brooks, the widow, William Henry Cole, and Alfred Clayton Cole, the grandsons, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £250,000. The testator leaves to his wife his residence, with the furniture, plate, household effects, and £1000; and legacies to his grandchildren, his late book-keeper, assistant book-keeper, and cellarmen, domestic servants, and others. As to the residue of his property, he gives one sixth to his son-in-law, Mr. W. H. Cole; one sixth upon trust for his daughter, Mrs. Louisa Augusta White, and her children; and the remaining four sixths upon trust for his wife for life, and at her death one half thereof upon trust for his daughter, Mrs. Cole, and her children, and the other half upon trust for his said daughter, Mrs. White, and her children.

The will (dated Nov. 10, 1875) of the late Mr. Henry S. King, of 65, Cornhill, London, and The Manor House, Chigwell, Essex, was proved on the 14th inst., the personality being sworn under £160,000 by the executors, the widow, Mr. H. Seymour King, and Mr. Philip Edward Sewell, of Norwich. With the exception of legacies to his sisters and brother, amounting to £3000, the testator bequeaths the whole of his real and personal estates between his widow and children.

The will (dated April 10, 1877) of Mr. Lestock Robert Reid, late of No. 122, Westbourne-terrace, Hyde Park, who died on Oct. 27 last, was proved on the 23d ult. by Mrs. Jane Reid, the widow, Claudius James Erskine, and Lawrence James Mercer, the nephew, the acting executors, the personal estate being sworn under £50,000. The testator bequeaths the testimonial, consisting of a centrepiece of silver plate with four silver side dishes, presented to him on his leaving Bombay, to his wife for life, and at her death the centrepiece to his son Lestock, and the side dishes to his son George Boileau. He also leaves to his wife £200 and all his household furniture and effects, and there are some other bequests. The residue of his property is left upon trust for his wife for life or widowhood, and then for all his children by his present marriage, as she shall appoint.

The will (dated Aug. 17, 1877) of Mr. Francis Chippindale, late of No. 27, Broadwater Down, Tonbridge-wells, barrister-at-law, who died on Sept. 30 last, was proved on the 30th ult. by Miss Alice Chippindale, the sister, and Charles Chippindale, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £35,000. The testator, after giving some legacies, leaves the residue of his real and personal estate to his brother William and his two sisters, Jane Eliza and Alice, equally.

The will (dated Oct. 17, 1876) of Mr. James Swainson Cowper-Essex, late of Yewfield, Hawkshead, Lancashire, who died on Oct. 23 last, was proved on the 21st ult. by Thomas Christopher Cowper and James Canham Cowper, the sons, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £35,000. The testator devises his property called Yewfield to the use of his son, the said Thomas Christopher, for life, with remainder to his son, Harry Swainson Cowper. The residue of his property he gives to his said two sons and his two daughters, Sarah and Margaret.

The will (dated Aug. 8, 1878) of the Rev. Jervis Trigge Giffard, formerly Rector of Long Ditton, Surrey, and late of Leatherhead, who died on the 1st ult., was proved on the 22nd ult. by the Rev. Matthew Weston Moggridge and Miss Mary Giffard, the daughter, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £25,000. With the exception of an annuity to an old servant, the only persons interested under the will are testator's daughters, Mary and Edith.

The will (dated Aug. 19, 1856) with four codicils (dated Dec. 13, 1867, Sept. 4, 1872, Jan. 18, 1875, and Feb. 11, 1878) of Mr. George Lowrey, J.P., late of High-street, Rochester, who died on Oct. 6 last, was proved on the 26th ult. by Thomas Hubbard, Joseph Creasey, and Henry Ringe, the executors, the personal estate being sworn under £14,000. The testator bequeaths £100 to the Dean of Rochester, upon trust, for the use and benefit of the Ophthalmic Department of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, near Rochester.

By the will of the late Mr. Frederick Gye, the Royal Italian Opera-House, amongst other property, has been left entirely to his family; and they have decided to carry on the Royal Italian Opera as usual. Mr. Ernest Gye, who has for some years been associated with his father in the Opera, will, with Mr. Herbert Gye, undertake the management. The season of 1879 will commence in April, and Madame Patti, Madame Albani, and all the great artists of the establishment are engaged and will appear.

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